

Landslide gives Mrs Gandhi power to amend constitution

rs Indira Gandhi, triumphantly surveying her landslide victory in the Indian general election last night, said the people had realized their "big mistake" in ousting her almost three years ago. With 310 results in, Mrs Gandhi's party had

Indians realize 'big mistake' in ousting her three years ago

m Richard Wigg
hi, Jan 7
Mrs Indira Gandhi was wiggling a landslide victory in the Indian general election tonight. More than three quarters of the Lok Sabha seats so far won, she had 239 against the opposition's 13.

With her allies among the other groups, Mrs Gandhi was able to command more than 500 votes in the Lower House to amend the Constitution, should she so desire.

As the former Prime Minister recently justified her recourse to the 19-month emergency on grounds that the parliamentary system was not able to respond adequately to India's mounting needs.

Only a two-thirds majority required in the Lok Sabha to pass the amendment, which Mrs Gandhi already introduced during her earlier term as Prime Minister.

he could also follow the present set by the Janata government in dissolving the state assemblies after the present election in order to leave an even greater concentration of power, perhaps in the name of stability, the great debt felt by the Indian electors.

fr Surendra Mohan, the Janata party's general secretary, conceded tonight that his party had no hope of victory. He pledged his party to alert the people against any erosion of their democratic rights.

Mrs Gandhi's victory is even greater than that achieved in 1971 and this time not counting the support of regional allies like the Tamil DMK party and the Muslim group.

Mrs Gandhi won a personal victory in the handpicked Medak constituency in south India by a massive 219,000 majority and was ahead of the Janata contender in her old Rae Bareilly constituency in northern India by some 64,000 votes. Mr Sanjay Gandhi, her younger son, defeated the Janata sitting MP in the adjacent Amethi constituency, having been trounced by him three years ago.

The other parties' performances so far are: the anti-Mrs Gandhi Congress, 6—a result which caused Mr Devaraj Urs, the party's national president and Karnataka Chief Minister to resign today; Marxist Communist Party, 9; the Lok Dal Party, 9; the Tamil Regional Party DMK, 13; Muslim League, 3; pro-Moscow Communist Party, 2.

This is a remarkable and highly personalized success with the voters for 62-year-old Mrs Gandhi, who campaigned like no other candidate.

None of her party's men was independently respected and many were young and untried. However, a middle-class Delhi housewife told me: "It's a good thing. We need a stable government; this time has been terrible under the Janata." She echoed the former Prime Minister's own election emphasis on the stability she believes she uniquely can deliver to 600 million Indians.

Asking people their reasons for voting, Mrs Gandhi back so decisively it was clear that similar sentiments were felt regardless of social status. For the poorer people the uncontrolled price rises during the past nine months seem to have

captured 239 seats against the Janata party's 13. She now appears sure of commanding sufficient votes in the lower house to amend the constitution, should she want to. She could also dissolve the state governments.



On her way back to power, Mrs Gandhi's expression reflects the election results.

done more damage to the two wings of the Janata party than any other factor among popular voters.

As one dedicated Janata supporter, who suffered under Mrs Gandhi's emergency, put it: "All the negative aspects of Janata's rule—or non-rule—have gone home very deeply with the Indian people."

Mrs Gandhi's residence at Willingdon Crescent here was the destination of well-wishers, old friends and place-seekers on a huge scale throughout the day. Mrs Gandhi indicated she would only make a full statement of her intentions for Government after all the results are in.

As she triumphantly surveyed the results today, she said that the Indian people had realized their "big mistake" in ousting her almost three years ago.

Among Mrs Gandhi's most significant victories have been the upturning of 11 of the 13 results so far in Gujarat, where Mr Morarji Desai's Janata base was supposed to be.

Twelve out of the thirteen Punjab seats, switched almost en bloc to her (despite Janata's concern for the farming lobby), in Karnataka, in the south, the Janata Congress has captured all fourteen of the seats declared so far—a crushing blow for Mr Devaraj Urs.

The electoral arithmetic behind the win, by 55,000 votes of Mr Bansi Lal, Mrs Gandhi's former defence minister, in his old Haryana constituency emphasized the disaster for the Janata party.

Mr Lal won 41 per cent of the votes polled, together the Janata and the breakaway Lok Dal voted up more than 52 per cent of the poll.

So far, only Bombay, often described as "an island of prosperity in India" has returned five Janata MPs out of the city's six seats declared. But one of the party's best known sitters, members from the city saw his majority drop by more than 20 per cent.

Bernard Levin, page 10
Leading article, page 11

Steel peace talks fail and 'long, difficult and bitter' strike is forecast by Mr Len Murray

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Peace talks aimed at ending the week-old national steel strike crashed in failure last night and Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, predicted a "long, difficult and bitter" stoppage. Employment in many other industries will be seriously affected.

After a day of shuttlecock movement between the headquarters of the British Steel Corporation and the offices of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, both sides reported breakdown in the wage negotiations, and a fourth union—the General and Municipal Workers—will make the strike official this morning.

In the hours of abortive negotiations, British Steel improved its pay offer to 8 per cent all round for 150,000 workers subject to a national agreement on reduced manning and flexibility of working practices, together with 4 per cent guaranteed productivity money to be negotiated at local level. BSC offered one advance lump sum quarterly bonus payment to get the scheme off the ground.

The TUC's newly-established steel industry trade union co-ordinating committee, representing the four unions on strike, stuck to its demand for 13 per cent all round, 5 per cent of it "on account" before local productivity bargaining could begin. The unions did however pledge a "national commitment" to improve performance and offered to set up joint productivity committees at plant level to ensure that BSC got a genuine return for its money.

The sticking point between the two sides remains the Corporation's insistence that any increase should be self-financing through increased productivity. "We don't have the money to pay in any other way," Sir Charles Villiers, BSC chairman, said. "We cannot increase the price of steel."

The collapse of talks will be reported today to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, but there is little likelihood of any early intervention by the Government in the dispute.

After the 10 hours of talks, the TUC general secretary said the unions had put forward their peace proposals to no avail. "There is no alternative as I see it to a long, difficult, and bitter strike which the unions have not sought."

So the strike ends its first week with the two sides further apart than when the original 2 per cent pay offer was made last month. BSC laid down its position firmly last night: "A pay agreement tied to increases in efficiency in the industry, arising from a national agreement intended to be self-financing and from the proposed local lump sum bonus scheme, is essential to the competitiveness of the industry and to job security within it."

The Corporation estimates that the best wages it could offer would see its wages rise to a minimum of £122 at least during the one-year lifetime of its proposed agreement.

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ON PAGE 2
Area picketing reports: Midlands, Port Talbot; Yorkshire; Shotton; Corby; Scotland.
Will steel stocks last?

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Japan 898 tonnes a man, BSC 141

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor
Productivity at two of Japan's modern steelmaking plants last year was between three and six times greater than that at British Steel Corporation plants.

Figures being studied by the National Economic Development Council's iron and steel sector working party underline the differences.

At the Kimitsu plant of Nippon Steel output per man was 409.8 tonnes. The plant produced a total of 6.78 million tonnes with a total labour force of 16,544. Measured in terms of the 7,544 direct employees at the plant, output per man totalled 898.7 tonnes. BSC's output last year was 141 tonnes per man.

Nippon Steel's Oita plant, with 7,500 workers split evenly between direct and sub-contract employees, achieved an overall productivity of 866.6 tons per man on production of 6.5 million tonnes.

Productivity measured only on the 3,700 direct employees was 1,756 tonnes per man. Last year Japanese steel production is estimated to have risen to about 112m tonnes. The Japanese industry has either closed or mothballed 25m tonnes of steelmaking capacity in the past three years because of the general fall in world steel demand, but the industry is now back in profit.

BSC, which is basing its medium-term strategy on reducing existing capacity by 6m tonnes to a total of 15m tonnes, coupled with a reduction in its labour force of about 33,000, is basing its drive for improved productivity on European levels of output per man.

When the present cutbacks are completed, BSC expects output per man to rise to about 165 tonnes compared with 141 tonnes last year, and 152 tonnes in its best year, 1972.

In the large integrated plants, including Ravenscraig in Scotland and Redcar on Teesside, the hope is that the slimmed down corporation will be able to boost productivity, aided by internationally competitive manning levels, to around 250 tonnes per man year. That would be much closer to current output in West Germany and France.

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Pronouncing judgment over Kabul

By Kenneth Gosling
The Afghanistan crisis has led to a minor difference of opinion in broadcasting circles over how the country's capital should be pronounced.

It must have surprised those people used to saying it with the accent on the second syllable to hear BBC newscasters coming out with Kabul and Independent Television News announcing Khorbul.

Each organisation yesterday gave their reasons for laying down the law in rather different ways.

The BBC pronunciation unit, whose word is law within the BBC, ruled a couple of years ago that Khorbul was correct having recommended up to that time that Khorbul was right.

The latter pronunciation was the way the Army in India, getting it from the Pathans, used to say it. In fact, all three are given as acceptable in the Soviet Union, Pakistan and China.

Russians were also involved in fighting with rebels in the provinces of Pakia, Herat, Kandahar, and Kunduz.

Around Kabul the Russians are digging in as if they expect an attack. Branches and fortified camps protected by anti-aircraft guns have sprung up around the main roads into the capital.

It was announced today that President Babrak Karmal would hold a press conference especially for Western journalists on Wednesday. They will be able to ask any questions, officials said. Reuters, UPI and Agence France-Presse.

Soviet veto: The Soviet Union tonight vetoed a Security Council resolution calling for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of "all foreign troops" from Afghanistan.

Mr Oleg Troyanovsky, the Soviet Ambassador, said that the Russians would veto the resolution which was presented by Bangladesh, Jamaica, Niger, the Philippines and Zambia.

By not mentioning the Soviet Union by name the resolution ensured the support of the non-aligned nations in the council. Speakers from developing countries have voiced their concern that they were usually the main victims of a deterioration in relations between East and West. That was why they were anxious to cool the inflammatory rhetoric of the more extreme draft resolution that had been circulated.

It was clear that the Soviet armed intervention had reduced the Russians' standing among uncommitted countries. Pakistan "worried" and photograph, page 5

Afghans fight Russians in five provinces

Kabul, Jan 7.—Soviet troops are meeting armed resistance from Muslim insurgents in at least five Afghan provinces, according to diplomatic sources here.

Russian paratroops are believed to have been dropped into the province of Badkshan, which borders the Soviet Union, Pakistan and China.

Russians were also involved in fighting with rebels in the provinces of Pakia, Herat, Kandahar, and Kunduz.

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Adamson death treated as murder

m Charles Harrison
robi, Jan 7
The Kenyan Police Commissioner, Mr Ben Githi, said here that the death of Joy Adamson, author of *Born Free*, is being treated as murder.

Three Kenyans, former employees of Mrs Adamson, were interviewed, he said.

At first the Austrian-born Adamson, aged 69, was reported to have been killed by lion while walking near her camp in the Shaba Game reserve, 250 miles north of Nairobi.

Doubts about the original report were raised at the week-end when it was learnt there were claw marks on the body. A post-mortem examination in Nairobi disclosed wounds to the shoulder and side not consistent with an attack by a lion.

Detectors flew to the Shaba Reserve and President Daniel Arap Moi announced the weekend that "certain facts" about the death had not yet been established.

The latest developments have used widespread shock here. Ellis Monks, director of the World Wildlife Fund and a director of the Shaba Reserve, said: "I am outraged that Mrs Adamson should have been killed. It is so needless."

Mr Instrument: Informed sources in Nairobi said that the Kenyans helping the police were former employees that Mrs Adamson had dismissed.

Central banks rule out sale of gold reserves

Western central bank governors have ruled out a concerted sale of gold reserves to end the speculative rush of funds on the world's bullion markets.

The idea, put forward by the president of the Swiss National Bank, founded when it received no support from the West German Federal Bank and the Bank of France. Gold

soared in price again in London after new records were set overnight in Hong Kong. However, there was two-way trading in the metal and the markets showed no sign of the hectic trading of last week. The metal slipped during the afternoon in London and closed at \$630, \$40 up on Friday but below the peak of last week's increases.

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Emphasis urged on maths
Pupils' work in secondary schools should be related to the skills required for adult life and employment, a government document on a national "core" school curriculum says.

The paper emphasises the importance of mathematics and English which, it says, should be taught to all pupils throughout their schooling and which should take up not less than 20 per cent of school time. Science should be taught for all primary school pupils and should continue until the age of 16, the document says.

Page 3

Call to speed up new technology

The most comprehensive criticism of Britain's failure to come to terms with technological change was published by the Government's Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development.

It said that the rapid development of new industries was vital for the nation's industrial future.

Page 13

Labour's left-wing: Reports of extremist infiltration into constituency parties to be kept secret

Anti-smoking campaign: Health Education Council tries to persuade parents not to smoke in front of the children

Ford accused: The Ford Motor Company faces a charge of homicide in a unique court case in Indiana

Classified: advertisements: Appointments, pages 5, 8, 11, 14; Sale, 19; and antiquities, 19; Personal, 18, 19, 20

Stormont talks rapidly run into trouble

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast
The Government's constitutional conference on power devolution to Northern Ireland ran into deep trouble last night within hours of being launched at Stormont.

Roman Catholic political leaders claimed they were being prevented from discussing a written submission to Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, on how they believe political progress should proceed.

The Social and Democratic Labour Party will inevitably introduce the central plank of its policy, that of Irish unity. There is no dispute over whether any of the parties should be allowed to make what suggestions they like, but there is sharp disagreement over which issues should be allowed for discussion.

It appears that Mr Atkins, with the obvious agreement of the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist, said discussion of Irish unity could not be permitted.

SDLP sources made it clear that unless Mr Atkins modifies his position the party will walk out.

Despite strenuous attempts by Stormont officials to present the conference as a going concern, it is clear that it is in grave danger of breaking up in bitterness and disarray. Earlier in the day government officials were talking optimistically of perhaps introducing a White Paper to Parliament at Easter on an agreed way forward.

If the conference collapses it is the Government's firm intention to introduce its own "imposed" remedies, probably about Easter. But Stormont officials are sticking by plans to hold the conference every

Patriotic Front commanders threaten to shoot guerrillas who ignore truce call

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Jan 7
Two senior Patriotic Front guerrilla commanders today ordered any guerrillas who had not so far reported to an assembly area to do so immediately.

The two men—Mr Rex Nkhongo, deputy commander of Zania, and Mr Dumiso Dabengwa, military chief of Zipra—also declared that the 20,000 guerrillas now in assembly areas were part of the legal defence forces and therefore, were being placed at the disposal of Lord Soames, the Governor.

Mr Dabengwa said that guerrillas in assembly areas would turn their guns on their comrades if they did not obey the truce call. He estimated there were between 2,000 and 3,000 guerrillas who had not reported to assembly areas.

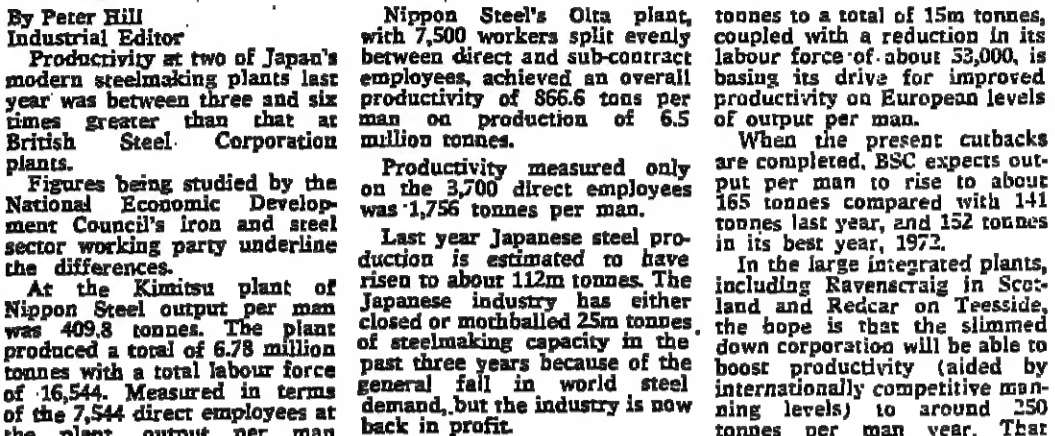
In a prepared statement the two commanders ordered guerrillas remaining in the field to report to the nearest police station, party office or mission station where arrangements would be made for their transportation to an assembly area. If these orders were disobeyed then guerrillas who continued to fight would place themselves "outside our command and you must face the consequences of your action."

It was vital, the statement said, that the ground was cleared for free political activity and the Patriotic Front turn its attention to the construction of a new Zimbabwe. "We have fought for our country and we have won the right for free and fair elections. We now want to see the immediate transformation from war to total peace."

The two leaders said they had reluctantly decided to call a press conference in order to clear the name of the Patriotic Front from the smears and allegations being made against it.

They impressed journalists with their sense of authority and the moderation of their language which contrasted with a heated statement made earlier in the day by Mr Enos Nkiza, the senior political leader of Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu organisation at present inside the country.

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HOME NEWS

Mathematics and English teaching get priority in proposals aimed at national core curriculum

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

A surprisingly specific set of recommendations for a national "core" curriculum is set out by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, the Secretary of State for Wales in a consultation document on a framework for the school curriculum, published yesterday.

As expected, the document gives pride of place to mathematics and English, which it says should be taught to all pupils throughout the period of compulsory schooling. Each subject should take up no less than 10 per cent of school time. Work in secondary schools should be related to the skills required for adult life and employment.

Schools should begin for all pupils in primary school (age not specified) and should continue until the age of 16, taking up in the later stages not less than 10 per cent and not more than 20 per cent of school time.

In the early stages the emphasis should be on the basics of science, and broad courses embracing elements of physics, chemistry and biology should continue until at least the age of 13. Attention should be paid to the industrial and practical applications of science.

Contrary to widespread predictions and hints from Mr Mark Carlisle, the Secretary of State, the document does not suggest that all pupils should

study a modern language up to the age of 16, but rather that they should have the opportunity to study at least one foreign language, and that some should be able to learn more.

In general, pupils should have a minimum of two, and preferably three, years of foreign language teaching, amounting to about 10 per cent of school time during those years. It is not considered desirable for pupils to devote more than 20 per cent of school time to foreign languages.

Religious education, as required by the Education Act, 1944, should continue to be a compulsory part of the curriculum for all pupils, the document says. However, the Secretary of State considers it right, as is commonly the case, for religious education to be linked with the wider consideration of personal and social values.

In addition to these core subjects, the following areas should, at one stage, all be incorporated into every child's education: the arts, including music and drama; history and geography, either as separate or integrated subjects; moral and health education, preparation for parenthood and family life; careers education and vocational guidance, beginning not later than the third year in secondary school; and preparation for a participatory role in adult society which most people would describe as practical education.

The document suggests a

possible check-list of broad values against which a school's curriculum might be tested, such as: helping pupils to develop lively, inquiring minds, and the ability to question and argue rationally; helping pupils to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment; instilling respect for religious and moral values; helping pupils to appreciate human achievements and aspirations; and developing an understanding of the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations.

The Government's proposals will be discussed with the interested parties within and beyond the education sector during the early months of this year, leading to the publication of a new document "providing guidance for local education authorities, schools and teachers".

The National Union of Teachers, which in the past has been hostile to the idea of Government interference in the curriculum, said that the recommendations were already common practice in most schools; where they were not, it was due to a shortage of resources and qualified specialist teachers. The union was seriously worried, however, about gearing the curriculum to "national needs". Who would define what those needs were? A framework for the school curriculum (Department of Education and Science, Elmstead House, York Road, London, SE1 7PB, free).

Children 'Labour's pawns' in assisted places dispute

By Our Education Correspondent

A strongly worded counter-attack on the Labour Party's criticism of the Government's proposed assisted places scheme was delivered by Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in Leicester last night.

Speaking at a dinner of the Midlands Club, Mr Carlisle said the Labour Party had chosen to attack the scheme on a party political basis, regardless of the fact that it was underprivileged children who would gain most from the scheme.

The Conservative Government continued to be concerned for all people, he said, and was

therefore proud to be introducing a scheme to extend the opportunity of highly academic education, available in the top independent schools, beyond those who could afford it.

Mr Carlisle said the statement issued by the Labour Party's National Executive Committee about the assisted places scheme was memorable only for its blatant disregard of the interests of the children. "They appear to look upon a child merely as a pawn to be used to justify the educational status quo. They do not seem to wish that any attempt should be made to provide an educational system tailored to the needs of individual children."

Lorry driver in fraud plot sentenced

John Hogger, aged 36, of Ocean Estate, Stepney, London, a lorry driver, who was said to have fled to Spain after taking part in a road haulage fraud, was given a 12-month suspended jail sentence at the Central Criminal Court yesterday on conspiracy to defraud and other charges.

It was alleged that forwarding agents had been charged deposit payments when goods were loaded for transport to the Middle East and Europe, but many loads were not delivered. Two men were jailed last month.

Brewery accuses publicans of watering beer

Fourteen publicans were seeking legal advice yesterday after their breweries dismissed them for allegedly watering beer. The landlords have been given two months' notice by the Home Brewery Company of Nottingham after up to two gallons of water was found in some 36-gallon beer barrels.

Mr John Cox, chairman of Nottingham Licensed Victuallers Association said: "I have seen the analyst's report and there is no doubt the beer has been tampered with. But I flatly refuse to believe it was done in the pubs. There is just no way they would get involved in this kind of thing."

Club chairman denies theft

Stuart Dryden, chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, denied at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday 15 charges concerning his sub-post office at Ruddington, near Nottingham.

Mr Dryden, aged 53, a magistrate of West Bridgford, denied 11 charges of theft involving £118. He also pleaded not guilty to two charges of obtaining £162 by deception and two of furnishing false information about wages forms. The hearing continues today.

Thorpe successor

A successor to Mr Jeremy Thorpe as prospective Liberal parliamentary candidate for North Devon is expected to be chosen by Easter.

Magazine's end a blow to Welsh cultural life

Cultural life in Wales has been impoverished by the decision to cease publication of the literary magazine, *Planet*, although the mass of Welsh people were unaware of its existence.

After nine years and 50 issues of high quality writing, sometimes controversial and often radical, Mr Ned Thomas, the editor, has decided there is need for a more populist publication to replace the kind of militant reformist pleading that *Planet* contained. *Planet* was important to Welsh life because it provided rare English language platform for serious analysis of Welsh issues without being assailed to party dogma or prejudice. Indeed, anxious to avoid assumptions that it was tainted and nationalistic, it adopted in its early years the title, *Welsh Internationalist*.

That effort to broaden its

Regional report

Tim Jones Cardiff

last issue. The first article outlines the disruption at University College, Bangor, and explains to English sixth-formers who may consider going there that the studies could be disrupted as Welsh students continue to react to the assault on their cultural base.

It also contains a translation of the famous lecture, "Need the language divide us?" by the late J. R. Jones, professor of philosophy at Swansea.

Adhering to a belief in social democracy, the magazine has sounded warnings which, at a time when holiday homes in Wales are alarmingly empty, are alarmingly prophetic. An article dealing with Welsh language

protesters states that in their way they believe that social democracy works. It continues: "If it patently does not, then... Wales will have slipped that bit further towards that violent confrontation... which is so familiar elsewhere."

There is an irony in an essay in the final edition dealing with Lloyd George and Saunders Lewis. Lloyd George was at Berchiesgaden with Hitler on the night in 1936 when Mr Lewis helped to burn down the bombing school at Pen-y-bent, that would inevitably damage and ultimately destroy it (the Llyn peninsula's) venerable culture and way of life.

Mr Thomas, a senior lecturer at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dr Penmar Davies, head of a theological college, and Dr Meredith Evans, a senior lecturer at University College, Cardiff, are due to appear before magistrates to answer charges relating to their part in entering and switching off the Pen-y-bent television transmitting station in west



TV détente: Tatyana Vedeneva, Soviet television's counterpart of the EBC's newsreader, Angela Rippon, and ITN's Anna Ford, photographed in London yesterday for a preview of a

new BBC Russian language series. Miss Vedeneva, aged 25, a former actress who appeared in seven films, will present the series, *Russian—Language and People*. She is a newsreader for

Gostelradio, which has helped in the production, and presenter of current affairs and children's programmes. She will present the first of the 20-part series on BBC2 next Monday.

Photograph by Harry Katt

Not in front of children, smokers told

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

The Health Education Council yesterday launched a television campaign to persuade adults that they should not smoke in front of children.

The film will be shown during the next month and have cost £300,000. Coupled with that is a smaller campaign in children's comics pointing to the danger of cigarette smoking.

The action is based on a study presented by Leo Baric, of the department of community medicine at Manchester University, who said his main conclusion was that babies could be influenced by what they saw happening around them from their first year.

The survey found that where smoking was becoming more acceptable for women in general, as part of their liberation from equality with men, smoking by pregnant women was slowly becoming unacceptable.

Dr Baric said that a room filled with smoke, or someone smoking over a baby, could increase the probability of the child having pneumonia or bronchitis in the first year.

Minister rebukes Mr Roy Jenkins as gulf widens over Community's farm policy

From Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent
Oxford

British complaints about the latest EEC plan to cut the cost of the common agricultural policy were rejected last night by Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the European Commission. He was immediately rebuked by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

They spoke at a dinner on the eve of the Oxford Farming Conference and their speeches showed the deepening gulf between Britain and the rest of the Community on farm policy.

The commission wants milk output from dairies above levels reached last year to be taxed to provide funds to promote extra consumption of dairy produce. "It has been said that this idea is unfair because it discriminates against efficient

British producers of milk," Mr Jenkins said. "This is a charge which I reject."

He also defended an attempt by the Commission to reduce output of sugar throughout the Community. Opposing the plan, British farmers and processors say it bears especially heavily on the industry in this country. "Seen against the historical facts, these proposals are the reverse of unfavourable to the British sugarbeet industry," Mr Jenkins said. "I do therefore urge you to approach these proposals with an open mind. Of course, they do mean sharing with your European partners the penalties and discomforts associated with bringing a halt to the surpluses."

Mr Walker was deeply sceptical about the Commission's ideas. He said current proposals ignored certain areas of very high actual or potential expenditure, such as wine and cereals, where there was obvious scope for savings.

The proposed quotas for milk and sugar ignored the fact that farm prices in Britain had been much lower for much of the 1970s than those in other EEC states. "Even if quotas were to be part of the answer, it is surely most unfair to base them on production levels which cannot reflect relative efficiency," Mr Walker said.

"I trust that the Commission will take heed of these criticisms and be prepared to revise their proposals accordingly." He believed that one of the main flaws in the Commission's campaign was that it said nothing about the level of EEC price support to farmers. Some of the planned measures would not cut spending, but simply raise revenue from consumers rather than from Community funds.

Swine disease spreads in spite of slaughter policy

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

A government campaign to stop the spread of a pig disease by slaughtering and burning thousands of animals has failed.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has confirmed that swine vesicular disease has broken out near Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester, far from its main centre in Lancashire.

The ministry said there had been another outbreak in Lancashire. More than 1,000 pigs from the two farms concerned have been slaughtered.

The disease, which is highly infectious, reached Britain in 1972. It causes lameness and can produce skin sores. The ministry said in 1976 that it had been eradicated from Britain.

It spread quickly and all outbreaks must be reported. Infected animals are burnt.

More than 2,500 pigs have been slaughtered in the first week of the year, compared with 44,000 in the whole of last year. The cost in compensation this year already exceeds £100,000, compared with £225,000 in 1979 and more than £10m since the disease reached Britain.

Man jailed for stealing ball at match

From Our Correspondent
Hereford

Two football supporters who were said to have stolen the match ball at Saturday's fourth division game between Hereford United and Doncaster Rovers pleaded guilty before Hereford magistrates yesterday.

Carl Michael Solomon, aged 19, of Cragbrook Avenue, Hereford, was jailed for three months. Neil Patrick Williams, aged 17, of Villa Street, Hereford, was sent to a detention centre for three months.

The elderly suffer in all-electric homes

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Those who use electricity for heating switch the power on for markedly shorter periods and heat fewer rooms than those using other fuels, yet the last bill for those living in all-electric homes averaged £74, nearly double the average for people using other forms of heating.

The Electricity Consumers' Council says those findings from a survey of a random sample of 2,087 people in England and Wales, underline fears that elderly people and those on low incomes living in all-electric homes do not heat their homes adequately because of the cost.

Miss Jennifer Bowen, research director of MAS Survey Research, who wrote the report, said: "The elderly and those on low incomes often live in all-electric homes, relying on what they consider an expensive fuel, yet they are the least able to afford it."

They are also most in need of information and advice, yet least likely to know where to get it. Other findings from the survey suggest there has been little response to campaigns for energy conservation. Some 38 per cent of households said they had done nothing to save fuel.

Although more than a fifth of electricity bill receivers said they had difficulty in paying, almost nine tenths paid in full as the bill came each quarter.

Paying by budgetary systems was unpopular, but the people most likely to benefit from easy payment arrangements were the least likely to know about them.

The report says there is a need to examine the role of 955 electricity board shops and showrooms. Nearly two thirds of respondents visited them, but it was usually to pay bills. Although the shops have a combined sales turnover approaching £200m a year, only one third of customers who called intending to buy appliances actually made purchases there. Most said they could buy more cheaply elsewhere.

Consumers' Attitudes to Electricity, by Jennifer Bowen, (Electricity Consumers' Council, 118 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5PZ, £7.50).

Vandals damage council offices

Sixty council planning staff were sent home yesterday after vandals caused damage estimated at £10,000 at their offices in Carlisle. Files and records had been destroyed, light fittings smashed, fire extinguishers set off and chemicals poured on desks and carpets. A police officer said that it was the worst case of vandalism he had seen. Planning applications are expected to be held up because many documents have been ruined.

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Bernard Levin looks at the implications following the Indian election

The return of Gandhi and Son: what now?

The Indian election results, though not complete as I write, are already sufficiently clear to make heavy hearts of those everywhere who love India and freedom, honesty and decency in public life, who value, in India as elsewhere, realism in seeing the truth and courage in speaking it, and who believe that it is not necessary for a voter to be well-fed or even literate to distinguish between democracy and tyranny, and still less between right and wrong. All those ideals and beliefs have been struck a grievous blow by the decision of free Indian voters to restore to power a ruthless, undemocratic, mendacious and criminal leader, together with her gangster son and their squalid entourage of Bansi Lals and the like.

No doubt there was intimidation during the campaign: no doubt there were irregularities at the polls: no doubt there was a good deal of quiet double-crossing by politicians ostensibly opposed to her yet anxious to swim with the tide. But when all this has been said, and all allowances made, the result is that in a genuinely democratic election, the Indian people chose to restore to power the scoundrels whom they had so rightly ejected in March 1977.

There are reasons, of course, for their decision; I shall come

to them in a moment. But first, I must be allowed to think of my friends there, most of them now in danger of her vengeance, and of those I know only by repute, such as that most upright judge, Chief Justice Shah, who was chairman of the commission which investigated and promulgated the details of her crimes and her lies, and who must now be a marked man. I think of the editors who fought her last time—Ramesh Thapar of *Seminar*, the elegant Masani of *Freedom First*—nothing surprises the venerable Gorwala, who looks like a holy sage and fights for liberty like a pacifist dervish: I ponder on the future of the MRA group around Himmat, led by Rajmohan Gandhi (grandson of both free India's founding fathers, the Mahatma and Rajagopalachari), on the fate of the lawyers who fought her in the courts, like Sorabjee, of those who were on the run and in hiding throughout her fraudulent Emergency, like George Fernandes, of the hundreds of thousands who she imprisoned illegally, of the millions who were stripped of their freedom overnight when she seized the power she knew she could not then obtain from a free electorate. (What will she do—what will her son do—now that they can plausibly say that they have

I have no doubt that Mrs Gandhi will abuse the power she has now been given

the endorsement of the people?) I think—how could I help thinking?—of the plea that her enemies in this country will now be feeling, the Michael Foots and Elton Griffithses and Peter Shores, and of all the others who will shortly be telling us that Mrs Gandhi has once again made the trains run on time. "They are ringing their bells; soon they will be wringing their hands." No doubt; but I am the very last man to want to say "I told you so" to India. I am almost glad that Jayaprakash Narayan did not live to see his countrymen vote. Mrs Gandhi back into office, for it would surely have broken that great heart, and what would have broken it is

what would have broken it is that she is back in power, but that she got there with the votes of a free people in a free election.

There are, as I say, reasons. Chief among them was the inability of the men in charge of the precarious Janata coalition to hold together in the face of a foe whose evil intentions were surely far more important than anything which divided her opponents. Second was the personal ambitions so damagingly pursued by those who should have sunk those ambitions in the common cause, and who did, after all, do precisely that to fight the 1977 election. ("J.P." was the architect of the Janata coalition on that occasion. Could he, had he lived, have done it again? It is not impossible.) Some would put Morarji Desai next, though I think he has been harshly judged; indeed, misjudged. It was not his fault that his chief political allies frittered away the months in quarrelling and scrambling for personal power, nor was it for want of warnings from him that they would not stop doing so long enough to hear the oncoming roar of the electoral tide.

Disillusionment was inevitable. Why should the Indian voters follow men who could not make up their own minds

as to what they wanted, let alone persuade each other to agree on the same wants? In these circumstances, the appeal of a ruthless and single-minded politician who knew exactly what she wanted is easy to understand. And, of course, there was the full weight of an exceptionally heavy example of that most modern of political avalanches, the revolution of awakened expectations.

I sometimes think that Pandora should be the patron saint of politicians today (if indeed she hasn't been appointed to the post already). The Indian voters who threw out Mrs Gandhi and Son in March 1977, got it firmly into their heads that those who succeeded to government were able, and therefore about, to usher in heaven upon earth. As a matter of fact, Mr Desai and his government did remarkably well in the matter of improving India's condition; but of course all they could do was to alleviate the problems, and too many voters, it has long been clear, expected the problems to be swept away altogether.

If that reminds you of conditions nearer home, I am not at all surprised. The difference, however, between the expectations aroused by Morarji Desai and those awakened by Wilson, Callaghan and Healey is that Morarji never claimed to be able to make figs grow

upon thorns, whereas our Labour Party leaders, almost to the last moment they were in office, and again now that they are in Opposition, have constantly insisted that easing the cost of living will banish hunger for ever, and leave no insoluble problems around next year's harvest.

Both aroused expectations that they knew could not possibly be satisfied. But Janata did so by the very fact of their election and no more; Labour did it again now. Perhaps it is rather insulting of me to see our problems mirrored in India's, but I cannot help it, and anyway it helps to take my mind off my friends and their grief—and their peril. I have no doubt that Mrs Gandhi will abuse the power she has now been given, and that she has never had the slightest intention of refraining from such abuse of it, though I certainly expect her to do it in a manner less gross than she employed last time. As for her son, I have no doubt that Sanjay Gandhi now that his mother will make haste to relieve him of all the legal penalties and charges that have followed from his crimes (as, of course, she will see that all the outstanding charges against himself are removed), will revert to his career of corruption and intimidation.

I have also no doubt that sooner or later, the voters of India will regret what they have done. I pray that by then it will

still not be too late for them to undo it. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1980



Moscow seems to have learnt nothing from earlier imperial adventures in Afghanistan

Is the Soviet Union opening a new round in the Great Game?

History is constantly stealing up on us and revealing our total unpreparedness for events. This new year we are faced with the dreadful coincidence of one of the powers in Kipling's *Great Game* stumbling down the same path taken by Britain exactly a century ago. Afghanistan? Why should faint memories of an imperial involvement in a far-off country concern us in our present reduced circumstances? Soviet Russia, in this era of the nuclear arms race, has been unable to profit from Britain's experience in Afghanistan.

The parallels with the Great Game are striking: give or take some changes of emphasis, the murder of envoys, the playing off of one nationalist leader against another, and the remorseless harrying and sometimes total destruction of the invading force by fanatical tribesmen recur.

In the opening days of 1880 an expeditionary force of the Indian army was holding its own with difficulty in the capital, Kabul, and in garrisons scattered through the mountainous south-central part of one of the most inhospitable countries in Asia. It was committed in pursuit of the so-called "forward" policy of the neo-imperialism of British India. Which of course meant a reaction to someone else's imperialism, Russia's. Russia had been far too active in advancing its frontiers in Central Asia for the peace of minds of the home government or its representatives in India.

India now lay at the end of a chain of staging posts and of a canal in which Disraeli had bought Britain a controlling interest. Any threat to any part of the empire was a threat to the whole. Britain was bound to react, therefore, to Russia's advance on Constantinople in the Russo-Turkish war. Sabres were rattled; a music hall song was on all lips: "We don't want to fight, but by Jingo if we do," and Disraeli fired a shot across Russia's bow by dispatching 5,000 Indian troops to Malakand and seizing Cyprus as a military base to protect the Canal.

At this point the Russians shuffled the deck for a hand

in the Great Game. That was what it was to be immortalized as by Kipling, but the ground rules already existed. Keep Britain off-balance in her most perilous imperial possession and either fight her or relax the pressure as the international situation seemed to dictate. And implicit in all the intrigue was the idea of winning a route to a long-sought warm-water port. Only a land-locked power could cling to such a dream so tenaciously.

In 1839 Russian overtures to the Amir of Afghanistan led to invasion by a British Army and the establishment of a Mission at Kabul. On that occasion not only were the plenipotentiaries murdered within a few days of the British cantonments but the Army itself had to retreat during the winter through the mountains and only three surviving Britons reached India. Nearly 700 British troops and more than 3,000 Indians were massacred.

Forty years later Britain's understandable resolve not to get involved in Afghan affairs again was weakening as Russia attempted to bring the Amir of influence. A new Russian arrived in India in 1876 with a brief to accentuate the imperial connexion—emphasized by the great durbar to proclaim Victoria Empress of India—and secret instructions to counter any moves by Russia against the North-West Frontier. As Lord Lytton's vice-royalty has been described in a recent book by his granddaughter, a poet, Lytton was considered a highly unconventional, even eccentric, choice for the office and his sense of the dramatic could be said to have found an ideal outlet in the Great Game. He wrote to the Amir, Sher Ali, that if he failed to accept a Russian Mission he would be alienating a friendly power, a power that had an interest in the region. Lytton's vice-royalty has been described in a recent book by his granddaughter, a poet, Lytton was considered a highly unconventional, even eccentric, choice for the office and his sense of the dramatic could be said to have found an ideal outlet in the Great Game. He wrote to the Amir, Sher Ali, that if he failed to accept a Russian Mission he would be alienating a friendly power, a power that had an interest in the region.

The Viceroy forced his Mission on the Afghans, which four months later was attacked by fanatics. "high" on the effects of Ramadan, and all were killed. The resulting full-scale military intervention designed to impose direct British rule met with one of the most humiliating reverses to European arms in the whole history of imperialism. Fortunately the crisis produced the right commander; in stead of dunderheads like those



Royal Artillery saving the guns at Maiwand, 1880 (after a painting by R. Caton Woodville). Reproduced by courtesy of the National Army Museum.

its political officer, Major Pierre Louis Napoleon Cavagnari, tried to enter Afghanistan at the border post of Jamrud.

They were politely rejected but Lytton had what he considered to be his *cus cus* betti. A veteran of Indian frontier warfare observed: "We have entered into conflict with a race of tigers. Only by ruling them with a rod of iron will they ever give in."

Lytton had grossly underestimated the difficulty of the task. No short, sharp shock to the natives, this, but a slow, costly campaign of conquest. The total bill for the first year alone was £950,000; thousands of pack animals died hauling supplies in the mountains (which caused the British finally to extend the railway up to the frontier) and extra troops had to be rushed out from Britain to make good the drain on the Indian forces.

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Fortunately the crisis produced the right commander; in stead of dunderheads like those

who had lost the previous expedition, skilled professionals like Sir Donald Stewart, Sam Browne (of belt fame) and Frederick Roberts were selected.

Roberts, "Our Bob," was a stern disciplinarian but came to be loved by his men for he cared for them materially and gave them victories with few casualties. He proved to be the only leader who could get the Afghans out of their fastnesses by resorting to rapid outflanking movements and the bond of mutual trust established with his Kuram Field Force gave the invaders a battle-hardened spearhead, with high morale.

This was just as well as the Afghans had mauled the British at Maiwand, in which their Imam, one of whom, a 90-year-old Ayatollah was carried on his bed from village to village preaching the Jihad against the ferocious Colours and guns were less and imperial pride and nerves took a terrible beating.

Roberts then gained an unexpected victory and a great reputation. He marched a picked force of 10,000 men unencumbered by wheeled transport and carrying only pack howitzers the 280 miles from Kabul to the besieged city of Kandahar. The Afghan force was halled as "simply the most daring and brilliant feat of arms performed by a British general since the Peninsular War."

The demoralized garrison rushed out to greet their deliverers with cooked breakfast and were told by Bob to prepare themselves for instant battle with the victors of Maiwand, who were swarming in their thousands near by. The next day the Highlanders and Gurkhas attacked and drove back the besiegers at point of bayonet.

When the news reached Britain, Jingoists, who had had their ardour dampened by depressing dispatch after dispatch, went wild with joy. Gladstone was even prevailed upon to grant Roberts a title which, of course, he took from the crowning mercy of Kandahar.

The Russians noted later: "In the face of unfavourable military circumstances the English were obliged to put forward all their strength in order to attain merely relative success over the weak Afghans."

And perhaps the last word should be Roberts, who wrote: "It may not be very flattering to our own pride but I feel sure I am right when I say that the less the Afghans see of us, the less they dislike us."

Should the Russians attempt to conquer Afghanistan "we shall have a better chance of attacking the Afghans to our interest if we avoid all interference with them."

John Crossland

Ulster: trapped between patriotism and politics

There is a close parallel between the resignation of Mr. James Lough and that of Captain Terence O'Neill as Prime Minister of Northern Ireland 10 years before. In each case you had a Prime Minister of a peaceable disposition under pressure from London to take measures which, while accepted by the majority of the population and even of his party's voters, nevertheless diminished his party's authority. Gradually the moral authority of both men declined and in the end they resigned.

Every polity, if it is to function as a democracy, must be built around an idea. It needs a widely-shared patriotism, to motivate its administration and security force. The trouble with the two Irish states is that their patriotisms do not march with their populations. The only possible patriotism for Northern Ireland is political Protestantism for the area's only distinguishing characteristic is that it is the part of Ireland with a Protestant majority.

Its preference for the Union expressed in referendums, will not serve as an effective patriotism for it; for Unionism, by definition, wants to eliminate all barriers between the province and the centre. There are Scottish Unionists; but Unionism is no part of the definition of a Scotsman.

The fact that Northern Ireland is not integrated with the mainland but has its own governmental institutions is a defect for Unionism. Indeed genuine unionism is no better qualified than Irish nationalism to act as Northern Ireland's patriotism; for both Unionism and Irish nationalism do not want the area to exist as a separate unit.

If there existed in Northern Ireland a genuine non-sectarian regional patriotism inside the larger UK patriotism devotion might work; but such a patriotism manifestly does not exist. The only "Unionist" patriotism which commands mass acceptance are specifically Protestant ones. Northern Ireland must speak with a Protestant voice, or not speak at all. Because of this, Britain has been forced to make sure that it speaks as little as possible; and to direct rule by mainland politicians was imposed.

Yet Britain has, now and again, to arrange for it to speak — to show that it still wishes to remain in the United Kingdom. For this the organizing of Protestant politics is necessary. Without the Rev Ian Paisley, the Rev Martin Smyth

and the Orange Order, all political coherence in Northern Ireland would disappear.

The North's patriotism does not embrace all its population; that of the South spreads beyond its borders. The only distinguishing feature of the 26 counties is that it is the Catholic area of Ireland; but while there is a heavy Catholic influence on the state, it is clear that its population shrinks from Catholicism as a political definition and prefers to see itself as Irish.

A Dublin Government which forsook the all-Ireland ideal and acquiesced in the border as the permanent boundary of the state would have to treat the people of Antrim and Armagh and the rest as foreigners. It would be that fact have lost the right to call itself Irish: it could not survive.

In practice, Dublin governments are schizophrenic. They can neither abandon the all-Ireland aim, nor take practical steps to realize it. They may sell all Irishmen as potential citizens, but in practice they attend to the needs of the 26-county Irish, who vote them into office. Having learnt over the years to survive and thrive in 26-county politics, Southern parties, despite the unity rhetoric, will be slow to move towards an all-Ireland state, in whose politics they might not prosper, or even exist.

Ireland creates patriotism problems for the mainland British also. Do they regard Northern Ireland as part of their nation, as contributing to their national identity? Does it mean anything to them that they are Great-Britain- and Northern-Irelandish, over and above being British? Almost certainly not.

Britain has ample goodwill towards Northern Ireland and makes great sacrifices in the pursuit of what she sees as her duty there. But she stops short of offering what, if the Northern Irish were seen as really British, would be automatically offered — integration.

That refusal makes separate institutions necessary for the province; and those institutions have (if the area is not to be a colony) to be based on Protestantism. Thus Unionism is thrown into a permanent alliance with an Irish political force—political Protestantism—and it ceases to be possible to verify whether the pro-Union majority in Northern Irish referendums is a genuine one or one arrived at by Britain's political divisions. And, further, the mainland British become associated, albeit at some remove,

with extreme Protestant violence.

With Unionism denied an outlet (no mainland party organizes in the province), political Protestantism is threatened as the specific expression of Northern Ireland's identity, the legitimacy of Britain's sovereignty being placed in question and atrocities being committed in her name. Britain pays a heavy price for the refusal of integration.

Given that Britain's troubles, as well as those of South and North, all stem from the existence of Northern Ireland as a separate political unit, it seems natural to think in terms of a compromise solution which aims to cater for the various interests involved in a context where it is no longer a political unit.

This means (integration with Britain being, one assumes, ruled out) the creation of a new, united Ireland; an Ireland which would not be the isolated Celtic isle of the anglophone Republic's dream, but one compounded of North and South and with permanent links, such as common citizenship, with Britain, an Ireland in which genuine Unionists (who are the only people to whom Britain owes a duty) can retain their cherished British nationality without the current need for accommodation with Protestant politics.

The objection will be made that if Britain adopted such a policy, there would be Protestant violence; but this, if valid, only emphasizes the dilemma, since it implies that while violence, Britain is at the same time the prisoner of potential Protestant violence. And it may not be valid.

It is hard to keep terrorist campaigns going, without some kind of acceptable aim. Without its identification with Irish nationalism, the IRA could not continue. Political Protestants get derogatory votes once they abandon their Union and campaign for UDI; it may not be that if a situation were created where political Protestants were longer pose, as they currently do, as the defenders of the Union the threat of Protestant violence would diminish, not increase.

But the time for "solutions" is hardly ripe. The need is for new perceptions, most importantly of the need to disentangle Unionism from Protestant politics. The old perceptions are manifestly leading nowhere; once they are changed, we can hope that effective policies will emerge.

Hugh Munro

Underground conservation in the City

A public inquiry into redevelopment plans for part of Philip Lane in the City of London is due to open on February 12. Beneath this bald announcement lies the unusual story of a conservation campaign which began above ground and suddenly plunged below it when a remarkable archaeological discovery was made.

Philip Lane runs from Fenchurch Street in the north to Easchep in the south. Two subsidiaries of Wates Ltd have already started redeveloping part of the site, comprising numbers 5, 7, 8 and 9 Philip Lane, which turns into the tiny Brabant Court to the west of the street.

Planning permission had already been granted for part of the site. Wates had already begun building a complex of offices, shops and a restaurant and a powerful campaign to conserve numbers 7 and 8 on the grounds that they are rare examples of eighteenth century merchants' houses was already under way when Wates' very generosity in allowing access

to the site led to the discovery of an almost complete medieval undercroft.

To the layman's eye, the present state of numbers 7 and 8, protected buildings though they are, suggests that it would be necessary to destroy them in order to save them.

But the undercroft beneath them, according to two experts on subterranean London, is a find likely to occur only once in a generation. Specialist confirmation of the value of the discovery came just before Christmas, attributing the structure to the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century—Chaucer's time.

It is one of the earliest examples of the use of brick in the City, and is dressed with stone thought to come from Caen in Normandy. Originally it probably protruded some four feet above ground level and would have had lights near the roof to illuminate its role as a storage basement for the timber-frame shops which stood above it until the Great Fire of 1666.

The conservationists would like to see it preserved, restored and opened to the public within the redevelopment scheme. Mr Paul Wates, chairman of Wates Developments Ltd, told me: "We cer-

tainly have a major problem here. The buildings themselves are unsafe and it is not practically possible to convert more or less derelict buildings of this kind into acceptable offices conforming with modern standards." The choice for the above-ground buildings seems to lie between demolition and decay.

The undercroft, however, could be incorporated into the redevelopment. At any rate, Wates have not excluded this option. All is far from lost. A difficult decision for some body.

Opposite the Children's Hospital in Great Ormond Street is a toyshop with the following notice in its window: "No children admitted unless accompanied by adult." No doubt this is a sign of the times and a defence measure against the sticky-fingered. Less penetrable is the card in the window of the Bloomsbury Bookshop a few doors away which reads: "If you're under 25, come in and browse." On entering, all becomes clear: it must be one of the finest bookshops in London, if not the world. The young man behind the counter explained that they had been visited by an extremely portly browser

who, once installed, made it impossible for anybody else to get in or out.

Breakthrough for Oxfam

Oxfam, still pressing on with its great Kampuchean effort despite the setbacks experienced by the "big boys" of the United Nations and the Red Cross, has found a permanent solution to at least one problem in Kampuchea's ocean of troubles. It can exclusively disclose.

You cannot run a country these days without typewriters and the embattled Pol Pot regime destroyed practically every machine in the country as part of its campaign to expunge western influences. They have not proved easy to replace because Khmer-alphabet typewriters do not grow on trees.

Preparing for the republication of *The Times* last November, I found myself working simultaneously on an article about Oxfam's relief work in Kampuchea and another about the double "equat" at which used to be the Cambodian Embassy in St John's Wood, London.

During my inquiries on the latter, I met Mrs Liliane Edwards, a Frenchwoman married to an English film producer, who told me she had worked as a secretary at the embassy some 11 years ago. She now works in an architect's office nearby.

I mentioned Oxfam's typewriter problem to her and Mrs Edwards, after due reflection, said: "I never used the Khmer machines, of course, but I am sure they were Remingtons. I can remember that they made a deep thumping noise when in use, and I'm sure only a Remington would do that."

Then I happened to recall from my years in West Germany that the German Adler typewriter company prided itself on its wide range of type-faces (I ordered a special one for myself, though not in Khmer). I passed on the names of the two manufacturers to Oxfam and thought no more about it.

Oxfam have now advised me that both Mrs Edwards' excellent memory and my own flypaper mind proved to be right. The charity contacted both firms to ask if they could deliver 500 Khmer machines, and received a positive answer in each case.

As it turned out, Adler

Thatcher's TV appearance...



The weekend. Both firms had offered the machines at trade prices.

The typewriters, which will set Oxfam back £75,000 in all, will be despatched from a West German or Dutch port in two consignments, half at the end of March and the rest about a month later.

"In a way we hoped to place the order with Remington because it would have been their factory in Calcutta that got the work and it would have been good to provide a little employment in the Third World," said Miss Pawson. The German company is ready to provide after-sales service and training in use and maintenance.

The latest edition of *Old Moore's Almanack*, that uniquely eccentric pot pourri of astrology, self-improvement, advertisements, pools forecasts and special-order lucky charms first published in 1857, pre-

dicts a hard year for Britain, a fairly safe bet these days, but also prophesies the start of a national regeneration with moves towards a written constitution.

The dozen of Jonah's forecasts stagnation in world trade, higher unemployment, labour unrest, disruption in oil supplies, bad news from Northern Ireland and some kind of renewed nationalism in Scotland. He also predicts unrest in eastern Europe and political disruption within the Soviet Union itself. There can be no arguing with his contention that this is going to be a critical year for President Carter, whose chances of reelection lie rates as "good".

He hints at a major scandal in the Isle of Man this month, luddite attacks on computers in February, a big epidemic in March, a national scandal and a nasty budget in April and a miserable May for the entire world.

If you find this less than cheering, you can always answer the advertisement near the back offering information on the after-life, though at this rate you may be asking whether there is a life before death.

Dan van der Vat

مكاتب الأمل

Le Monde
LA STAMPA
THE TIMES
DIE WELT

Europa

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Jean Baréts sees signs of the emergence of another period of opportunities for change, the effects of which this time are likely to be on a worldwide scale, and details eight of the most important changes that are taking place

History's glacier is cleft: all things are possible

History advances by a process of continual evolution occasionally punctuated by abrupt shifts. When the latter occur, the ice-bank of opportunities for change breaks up and all things become possible. Men, political parties or regimes either use or miss these opportunities and then the ice-bank regains its former solidity.

Such periods are characterized by new developments in the life of societies and are therefore foreseeable. It would seem that we are today witnessing the emergence of new factors heralding one of these periods, but this time their effects are likely to be on a worldwide scale. The eight most important changes are:

The use of nuclear weapons. The old deterrents probably saved us from a war between the two big powers during the 1950s, since the certainty that retaliatory action would destroy any aggressor's towns within half an hour of an attack was effectively the ultimate deterrent. However, the situation is changing. Within a few years the accuracy and numbers of missiles will have developed to such an extent that it will become possible for either side, as the aggressor, to neutralize the other side's retaliatory capability. There is no reason to believe that either of the big two would use its strike power in a balanced world, but other factors are precipitating us towards an imbalance. At all events, the possibility of a nuclear war of this type must be acknowledged. Here we have a first new factor.

The energy crisis. In the eyes of the public, the continued rise in oil prices is considered to be the fault of the Arab sheikhs, but in fact it reflects the workings of the law of supply and demand (not to say might is right). Governments which understand this will seek compromises, but entrenched populations, believing in the sanctity of the status quo, will one day force governments into military action. Before long someone will invent a theory of "international ownership of mining resources". The progress of nuclear weapons has created the possibility of war in a few years the crisis may provide a plausible motive for such a war. The end of non-intervention. In former times only a tiny (and often elitist) minority knew about the problems of the world and the decisions of the diplomatic corps were conducive to the maintenance of a precarious balance. In today's world, in which television and radio feed a surfeit of information to the ordinary citizen, it is no longer possible to uphold a code of values at home while at the same time remaining on good terms with those who destroy it abroad.

President Carter is torn between human rights and the demands of realpolitik and he will perhaps be the first political victim in history of this new dichotomy. Already Uganda, the Central African Republic and the Helms-Roe agreement have marked the decline of non-intervention. It is the third, could one day supply moral justification for certain wars.

The resurgence of protectionism. The energy crisis has created the need for all-out export effort to maintain today's trade balances. This has led to the exporting of entire factories which will be delivering goods on to the world market, thus upsetting tomorrow's trade balances. The economists know that protectionism is a mistake, but the need to maintain employment and to pacify public opinion could lead to protectionism.

Behind protectionism there lurks autarky, which is often the prelude to nationalist economic and political excesses. It is also the necessary structure for decisions motivated by excessive national egoism, a structure which can make for war, since it reduces interdependence to a minimum.

The challenge to majorities. Democracy rests on the concept of majority power. In a period of calm or better yet one of progress, the 49 per cent in the majority yield to the 51 per cent always been the case in periods of economic crisis (witness Hitler, Mussolini or Franco). Some minorities are already resorting to violence, protest movements, ecology demands for regional autonomy.



These minority movements are very dangerous, and some of them are irresponsible. Corporatism, lobbies, the Basque, Breton and Corsican autonomists are all symptomatic of the emergence on the political scene of particularistic forces in opposition to the symbiotic structures represented by states and governments.

Democratic society rested on the general agreement achieved by these symbiotic powers, but they are developing cracks on all sides and the present conventional wisdom is powerless to do more than paper them over. Majorities tend to react by opting for authoritarian structures which, although by no means "fascism", can lead to many an adventure, and therefore contain the potential for crisis.

New scientific developments: At a time when politics is already unfettered for coping with age-old problems, scientific discovery is creating new problems with each passing year. The atom is the classic example, but there will be others. For instance, it will be possible in a few years to choose the sex of one's children in advance. In our societies, with an average of 1.6 children per couple (with marked preference for a male first-born), freedom of choice is likely to lead to a future generation in which there will be two men to every woman.

Think of the consequences for the family cell, which such a development would destroy, make artistically impossible if governments allowed complete freedom of choice. If governments did intervene, would it mean that future parents would have to obtain official forms sanctioning their choice of sex? Abortion and contraception are already changing codes of values and behaviour patterns, but the problems are as nothing compared to those that lie ahead with this new development, which raises the whole question of genetic manipulation.

These abrupt changes in the old morality in the face of the advance of a new ethic cannot fail to disturb the existing political models. Even if the ethic which eventually emerges proves to be an improvement, the change is bound to create disruption, thus adding to the list of causes of crisis.

The failure of political models. In the past the alternative models of capitalism and socialism shared the favours and aspirations of the various classes. Today capitalist liberalism survives only by accepting state intervention, rejecting the laws of supply and demand in many instances and levelling excessive inequalities—all of which is contrary to its own logic. Socialism, for its part, is able to hold out only by applying constraints to human

liberties in a manner contrary to its philosophy and floundering in the illogicality of systems of planning to control markets, with the concomitant authoritarian economic centralism and the central political authority needed to manage them.

Centralism raises problems which have not been solved satisfactorily. Is it possible to fire the imaginations of young people with these models whose rationality is so inimical to the irrational qualities of hope, love, justice and fraternity? We are at a loss for a political solution which would provide us with the means to exercise control over our future and if we do not find one the outlook is bleak indeed. A research effort is needed to adapt these models to the harsh realities. The rising tide of mysticism. In this ultra-rationalized (or should I say standardized?) world, reason and irrationality are in diametrical opposition. The qualitative reaction—and how necessary it is—finds expression through a resurgence of what is known in philosophy as the sacred, as opposed to the profane. This is already happening. It is no accident that the Pope is able to mobilize the Roman Catholic crowds in Poland, or Khomenei the Islamic crowds in Iran.

The despair secreted by the world of rationality leads to the capitalization of hope in the irrationality of letting off steam. It is no accident that parapsychology and astrology are so popular. Malraux said that the twenty-first century would be mystical or nothing at all. It could of course be mystical and harmoniously peaceful, but it could also be mystical and cruelly demented because, depending on circumstances, the mystical vein produces either the saint or the inquisitor. Let us not forget that man is the only animal capable of waging an ideological war.

In the past man turned to philosophy for answers to the important questions about humanity and the cosmos. He has done so for 3,000 years. Tomorrow it will be biology, astronomy and quantum physics that give us the answers. This will generate new philosophies and with them, new policies. In the meantime, we lack a star to guide us. Where are the wise men who will discover the new way?

I am not a pessimist. Man will overcome these obstacles. Nevertheless, a lucid approach to the difficulties is necessary. Profound changes have always led to holocausts and I fear the one which threatens us now even if, by its extremes, it engenders a new and better human society which our generation will unfortunately never see, because it will have to live through the period of change.

Madam President, France is the country where the press and people in politics are most critical of what you have been doing in the European Parliament, much more than in Italy or West Germany for instance. Are they not getting at M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's European policy through you? Is your policy merely the same as his?

It is a fact that I led the European list which claimed to represent the policies of the President of the Republic. This does not mean that my views on everything are aligned with his. As President of the European Parliament, moreover, I am not particularly anxious to have a clearly defined line of my own, but am more concerned to represent the majority view of our assembly, as it emerges.

Do you mean by this that it is not possible to guide the majority and that it has to be followed?

It is impossible to guide it, or at least to support it, particularly in its image. It has to demonstrate that it is working effectively and responding, in part at least, to the hopes placed in it. This is the underlying purpose of the programme which we have planned for the next three months.

Which topics will be covered? Subjects which we consider priority issues, beginning with employment, then energy, on which we feel there should have been a common policy at an earlier stage, then agricultural policy and finally the problem of hunger in the world, a subject which we have already debated and on which our committee on development and cooperation does a lot of work.

Regarding employment, is it not likely that an assembly such as yours, with a conservative majority, has made difficulties for itself by choosing this issue on which it cannot give full satisfaction to such as the trade unions and the parties of the left?

Whatever the predominant tendency of the Assembly—and that is a matter which could be discussed at length—detailed consideration of working hours and work organization could yield many ideas of potential usefulness to governments.

It is not easy to imagine this Assembly coming out massively in favour of the 35 hour week. Are things that simple? For instance, I find that not enough consideration has been given to the arrangement of working hours and part-time work—and here I do not refer exclusively to women. There are plenty of interesting proposals to put forward and changes to be obtained.

You do not care to hear the Parliament described as "conservative". Are you afraid that its conservative image will rob off on you because you have been its president?

First of all, I aim to be the President of the whole assembly. Moreover, I hope to see the emergence of majorities which are not rigidly determined by political affiliations. In fact I have noticed on several occasions that a given political group does not automatically react to a given issue in the way one might have predicted. Another point to bear in mind is that in Europe, government decisions vary from country to country.

Does national discipline replace party discipline in voting when it comes to the defence of individual countries' interests?

This does happen, but I find that in general, even though they may defend electoral interests, the members of the European Parliament do try to cast aside national policies, even when this is not easy. I also find that, within the political groups, efforts are made to make concessions to national frontiers in order to establish common positions. Some genuinely European work is going on inside the political groups themselves.

What do you think of the Italian Radicals?

They are as much members of this Parliament as the others. From now on the new rules afford them scope to express themselves with all the prerogatives enjoyed by members of a political group, while at the same time preventing them from obstructing proceedings. They contribute interesting ideas.

Is it true that you sometimes take liberties when applying the rules of procedure of the Assembly? The best way to apply them is to be as strict as possible, but who could be consistent at all times in applying rules which are no longer suited to the new Assembly, when hundreds if not thousands of amendments have been tabled to a text which consists of only a few articles? Here we have to deal with obstructive manoeuvres designed to undermine the spirit of the rules.

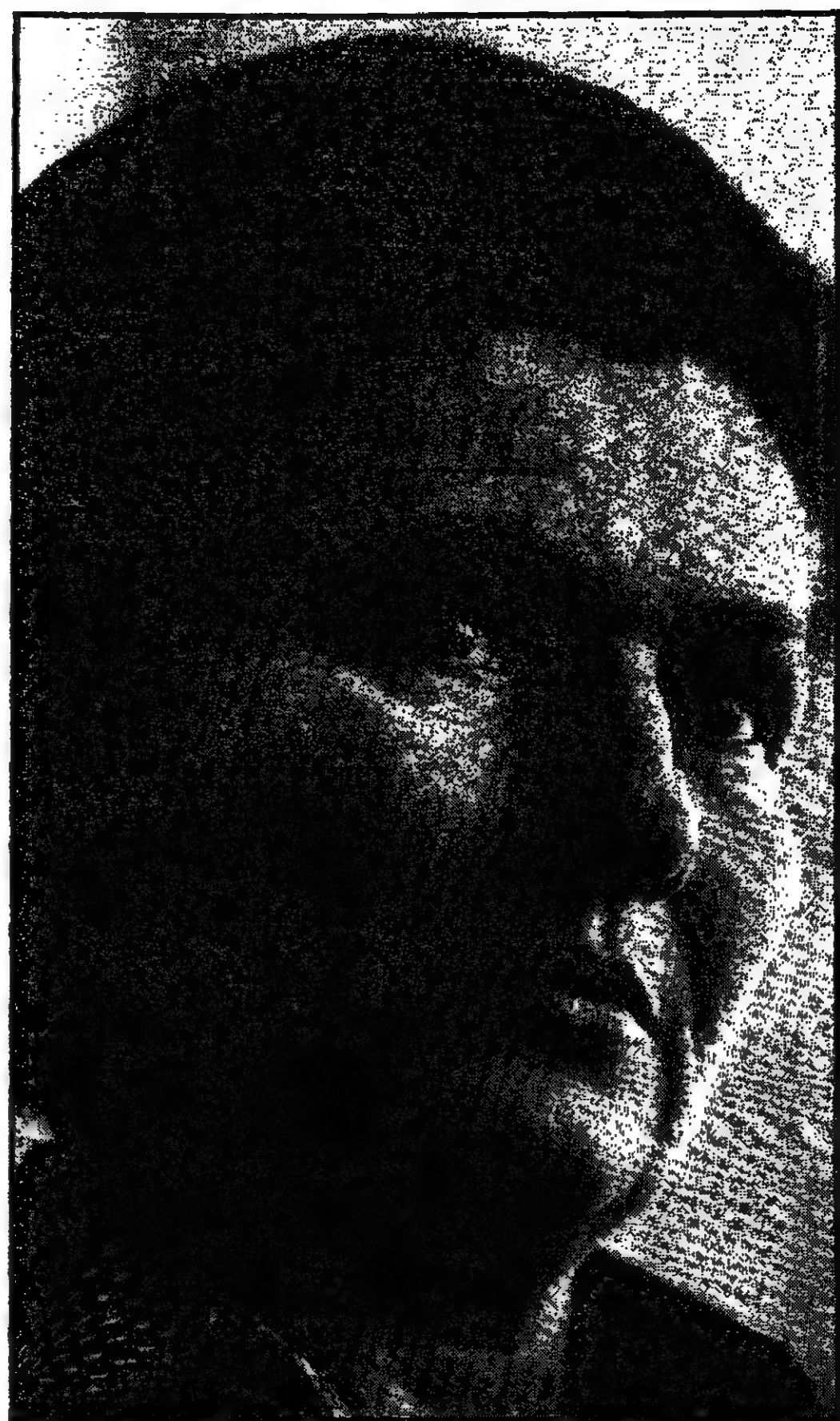
Do any difficulties arise out of the fact that the parties in the Assembly do not correspond exactly to the representation of the national parties?

This depends on a variety of factors. For instance, the British have only two political groups in the Parliament, one of which is the very large Conservative group. This is both an advantage and a disadvantage. On the one hand, they can agree upon joint positions which count, but on the other hand they have no influence outside their two groups.

Talking about Britain, what do you think of the new wave of women prime ministers? We now find this phenomenon in Portugal and even in South America, where it makes a pleasant change from the military regimes. Is this merely a

Reflecting the majority is best policy

The next 20 years are unlikely to see any sudden development in European integration. In this interview with Jacqueline Grapin, Mme Simone Veil, President of the European Parliament, suggests that greater unity will be achieved through a response to issues as they arise rather than through the establishment of institutions



normal phenomenon to do with the advancement of women or is it due to the powerlessness of men in difficult circumstances?

I do not think that it has anything to do with the powerlessness of men. We have already had Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mrs Golda Meir, but they were exceptional cases and they each came to power at special moments in history. Mrs Thatcher was the first woman to become a prime minister in the course of a normal political career. Her predecessor as the leader of the Conservatives, Mr Heath, lost the support of the majority of his party and she was elected leader and came into power in the same way as any other political leader. What could be said is that this helped to undermine some inequalities.

Other countries will now be less reluctant to put women into power, given this example. However, three countries out of the entire world do not amount to very much and, apart from the European Parliament where there is a higher proportion of women than in national parliaments, women's involvement in political life around the world is still on a very low level.

Mrs Thatcher has taken up a very hard position on European affairs and the budgetary and agricultural issues in particular. Not only on the substance of the cases but also in the style which she has adopted. In her place would you have taken a similar course?

I believe that, in general, women have a different style in politics from that observed in their other areas of responsibility. They are more direct. Mrs Thatcher simply said what she thought, without hedging it about, and this is what shocked people. This style which eschews diplomacy and care in the use of words is a rather feminine thing.

Do you believe that this method produces the desired results more or less quickly? Is it economical of resources or does it create blockages which then have to be sorted out?

I believe that compromise is a part of life and that every possible avenue for compromise should be explored in the first place. In discussions with your counterparts, you cannot expect to get everything you are asking for. But picking your demands at a very high level from the outset is perhaps one way of getting more. At all events, if we are to get on in the Community, there has to be a certain amount of give and take.

Although it seems clear that it is going to be necessary to re-discuss the workings of the agricultural common market, is it not difficult to ask a country such as France to make major

concessions on the benefits which it has acquired when nothing is offered in return? Do you not think that it would be easier to solve this problem, as you say, in a spirit of give and take, and why not by throwing British North Sea oil into the scales and creating an as yet non-existent energy common market?

This is precisely what has been suggested by various of Britain's partners as a development of the Dublin discussions. In practice, the wider the field of negotiation, the easier it is to establish a compromise and therefore to reach agreement. Can the Parliament make proposals for compromise linking various issues, such as agriculture and energy?

To a certain extent this is what it has already done with its budgetary proposals, which called for a reduction in the agricultural surpluses combined with an increase in other funds. The aim was to reduce the concentration on agricultural policy and to widen European policy to other spheres, the budget being seen as the medium for doing this.

The way things have turned out, has not the European Parliament effectively been pleading the cause of Britain?

On certain issues, the concerns of the Parliament coincide with those of Britain. It is anxious to reduce the surpluses. However, it has never been its intention to call the Common Agricultural Policy into question. This is only a small part of the problems which the British are concerned. Moreover the vote on the budget was won by a very large majority and the council of ministers of agriculture, while regretting that the issue came up on the budget vote, has admitted that the problem needed to be aired.

Do you believe that the rejection of the budget, for the first time in the history of the European Parliament, created a major institutional crisis?

There is no institutional crisis at all. The contingency of the rejection of the budget in politics from that observed in Article 203 of the Treaty of Rome, which also lays down the procedure to be followed in such an eventuality. The Parliament has accordingly merely used its prerogative to express its disagreement with the budget proposals forwarded to it so that new proposals could be submitted to it. Let us not forget that, only last year, the conditions under which the budget was passed gave rise to a legal imbroglio which was not easy to disentangle.

Is it possible at this stage to assess the work of the new Parliament after its first six months? It is a little early. The new Parliament has had to make a great effort to organize its own affairs. The teething problems were foreseeable; indeed they were to be expected. Apart from those arising out of the unworkable rules, I should mention those associated with the special features of our Assembly, whose working conditions are complicated by the need to operate in so many languages and the presence of representatives of nine countries whose parliamentary practices and traditions vary widely. Moreover, we had to organize the committee work in advance of the plenary session so that substantial reports were available on any given subject.

Finally, it was an easy matter to adapt the administrative machinery to the requirements of 410 members instead of the 198 of the previous parliament, bearing in mind, for instance, that all the documentation has to be produced in six languages. This has required an enormous effort, not least from the Parliament's civil servants. In the early stages we experienced difficulties in limiting the agenda, believing that we could decide all the problems confronting Europe by devoting some attention to each. Now, however, there is evidence of a willingness to approach each issue in turn and to include in the agenda only those for which proper preparation has been made with a view to a debate.

In the given context, was it not imprudent to kick off in September with a topic concerned with defence? It has not been said often enough that there was nothing extraordinary about that agenda. There had already been a report on the harmonization of industrial policies on armaments procurement. The rapporteur had asked what we had become of it. What could be more normal? I cannot imagine any grounds on which this request could have been refused, since this issue had been debated on numerous occasions by the former Assembly.

Technically speaking, that is beyond question but, politically, it is perhaps less clear-cut, since there was such virulent criticism. As President of the European Parliament and a leading figure in French politics, are you not afraid that this job is putting you in the position of extracting the crossfire of disagreement between the RPR and the UDF in the French majority, since the European policies of these two parties are very different?

This is certainly true to some extent. But when one takes a decision, one must accept the consequences. Apart from the

personal aspect, I very much regret the repercussions of these criticisms on the Parliament's image, especially when they are unjustified. In the event the Parliament was not in any way seeking to extend its powers to defence. It had already debated the same issue and it was merely returning to it and discussing the same very specific aspect. It was only when Parliament was sitting that some emotions were aroused, whereas during the meeting of the bureau no one had thought that there was anything extraordinary about it.

Would you be in favour of giving elected members of the European Parliament seats at the Western European Union, which is the European body with competence for defence matters? The present national representatives there are appointed and do not have much authority.

I do not think so. Having been elected to the European Parliament, which in principle has no competence in these matters, they would be in an ambiguous position. Should they be elected directly to the Western European Union?

This is another matter which is outside my competence. When you look forward to Europe in the year 2000, what do you hope to see and what do you realistically expect?

It is difficult for me to answer your question, because I have found that whenever one tries to make forecasts 20 years ahead, one gets them wrong. First you have to make various assumptions. If there is a grave international crisis, some sort of worldwide conflict, it seems to me that Europe will inevitably close ranks in order to face up to it, but then it will hardly have much time to concern itself with institutions.

There would be "summits", councils of ministers, etc. Otherwise, assuming that there will be no such conflagration and that we continue to have a tense situation as I believe will be the case, with many economic problems, energy difficulties and slower growth than a few years ago, Europe will very gradually take shape. I do not believe that the next 20 years will see any sudden development in the direction of integration, unless some exceptional personality emerges to inspire a new European mood.

I believe that those who think that European unification is not proceeding fast enough fail to take account of historical perspective. Set against two millennia of history, 20 years is a very short period. Much can happen during that time, but the pace of change is scarcely evolvable any more quickly.

Given the enormous range of potential challenges from such sources as the United States, Japan, the Soviet Union and the Third World, not to dwell unduly on the Islamic problem, can Europe move towards greater unity?

I hope and believe that it will become more unified. But I think that this will happen through its response to issues and problems as they arise rather than through the establishment of institutions. It is the role of our Assembly to ensure that such Community policies.

Do you have more faith in a Europe built on joint projects than in a political Europe?

In a sense, yes. It is difficult to predict areas in which developments will occur, but it is equally difficult to believe that any one will not be one of them. Europe has displayed a very great capacity for cooperation in energy since 1973.

This is true, but such cooperation is desirable and should become a reality by dint of necessity. Culture, on the other hand, is a sector in which there will be European initiatives, but in which specifically national characteristics will continue to predominate. On the industrial side, I imagine that we could see the products of the status type in such areas as remote data-processing and space. As for the institutions, everything will depend on whether or not a forceful personality emerges to exert a strong influence on their development.

And the Parliament itself? The development of the European Parliament itself is difficult to visualize because I do not think that it can evolve autonomously. The political powers collectively represent a balance and the Parliament exists in relation to that balance.

Are you not concerned by the fact that Europe is on the sidelines of the major international events of the day? This is not the case in certain areas. For instance, Europe has made its voice heard in connection with South-east Asia and the Cambodian tragedy. Europe has done most to arouse humanitarian feelings over this issue. There is certainly one important area of international relations in which Europe is not playing its part. This is on the military side, but this is the position that it has chosen, preferring a policy of disarmament by the big two to a policy of engaging in the arms race itself.

You have not said whether you see Europe in the year 2000 as having disarmed, armed itself more heavily or remaining in today's halfway situation.

I would hope that Europe will be no more heavily armed than it is at present and that the two great powers will have made progress along the road to disarmament. Is that clear enough?

That seems like wishful thinking. Yes. My wishes for this year.

Facts and figures

Monetary policy is really beginning to bite

	quality of growth			maintenance of growth		
	rate of growth	prices	unemployment	productive capacity	foreign trade	vulnerability to external factors
GERMANY	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
FRANCE	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
ITALY	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
BRITAIN	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●

Our European governments' attention remains focused on the American economy, which continues to exert a preponderant influence, not only by virtue of its level of activity (although Western countries are not necessarily in phase with one another), but still more by developments in inflation. Interest rates and the strength of the dollar. The recent pattern has been unclear: the statistical returns have produced many contradictions and a few surprises. For instance, the growth rate in GNP for the third quarter has been revised upwards to 3.1 per cent.

Two much more recent statistics point in the same direction: in November, retail sales leapt by 1.8 per cent, and, to everyone's surprise, the unemployment rate fell from 6 per cent to 5.8 per cent, with an increase of 350,000 in the number of people in employment, whereas it had been expected that the large number of redundancies, especially in the motor industry, would cause a deterioration.

However, there are also plenty of indications that the new restrictive monetary policy launched on October 6 by Mr Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, with its direct depressant effect on liquidity, is really beginning to bite. Consumer

credit has started to decline (with advances of \$2,200m in October compared with \$4,400m in September), car sales, which depend to a large extent on hire purchase, have slackened (down 15 per cent in November) and so have housing starts (down 8 per cent), probably as a reaction to the high mortgage rates.

Industrial output, too, fell by 0.5 per cent in November. The slowing in the pace of monetary growth is another indicator pointing in the same direction. The prime rate, having reached a peak of 15.75 per cent as recently as November 17, has been cut to 15.5 per cent, then 15.25 per cent and now 15 per cent.

It is doubtful, however, whether this fall in the prime rate can go very far. In the opinion of one expert, Mr Kaufmann of Salomon Brothers, further rises in the early part of this year cannot be ruled out. For the downward trend to continue, slackening activity and weakening demand for credit are not enough in themselves. A firmer dollar and a substantially reduced inflation rate are needed, and here the prospects are doubtful.

On the one hand, political events are placing the American currency under pressure. On the other hand, the combi-

nation of the consequences of the most recent oil price increases and perverse effects within the United States (for example, high interest rates pushing up the cost of housing, which was the main factor in the October rise in the index) does not augur well for any early reduction in the rate at which retail prices are advancing (more than 13 per cent year over the past three months).

The trade unions believe that, by showing restraint, they have borne the brunt of the lost battle against inflation and are now adopting a more combative approach in their determination to make up lost ground. Even at Chrysler, for all that company's troubles, they have secured increases totalling 30 per cent over three years, much to the displeasure of Mr Kahn, director of the council for wage and price stability, who accordingly opposed the granting of government guarantees to the company.

Interest rates in our four European countries are, in general, still on an upward trend. They are being forced up by the sharp increase in American rates, often as a remove in time, and also by rising inflation. The most striking example is Italy, where the discount rate has been raised on two occasions, first from 10.5 per cent to 12 per cent,

and then by three full points to 15 per cent. Admittedly, inflation in Italy is running at more than 20 per cent, and, moreover, the lira has weakened after the decision by Saudi Arabia to stop oil deliveries.

Under these circumstances the authorities, advised by the former Governor of the Bank of Italy, Signor Guido Carli, decided to accelerate the upward trend in interest rates. These, since they are still lagging behind prices, have probably not yet reached their peak, unless a return to wage restraint can be initiated by revision of the system of wage indexation, an unlikely prospect in the present political and industrial relations climate.

It is interesting to make a comparison with Britain, where the discount rate has also been raised by three points to 17 per cent, which observers had scarcely expected. Here again, any decrease in rates will be conditioned by what happens in the United States, but also by the domestic rate of inflation. Like Italy, Britain has seen its inflation rate rise above 20 per cent (calculated on the past three months).

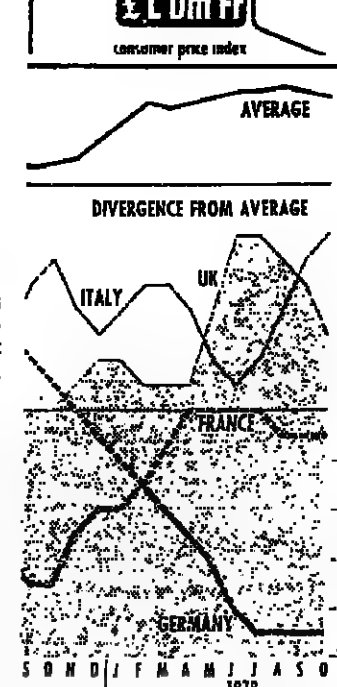
It has since come back to 15 per cent, but with public service pay increases in the pipeline, it is likely to rise again soon. In the longer term much will depend on wages; recent settlements have resulted in large pay awards of between 15 per cent and 20 per cent, and Sir Geoffrey Exchequer, believes that employers are being too generous, having been misled by inflation into misreading the true meaning of their results.

Nevertheless, there are some indications that the wages tide is turning: the miners' acceptance, in a secret ballot, of the recommendations of their union executive, of a 20 per cent increase—as against a demand for 65 per cent—is significant, as is the result of a CBI survey in which more than half the workers interviewed confirmed their willingness to exercise moderation, bearing in mind the potential effects on their companies and the employment situation of excessive demands.

West German interest rates are at a high level (the overnight rate has risen as high as 9 per cent), especially in relation to inflation, the annual rate of which has fallen to a little over 3 per cent, calculated on the basis of three months. This reflects the Bundesbank's determination to maintain strict discipline, which has drawn praise from the "five wise men" in their most recent report.

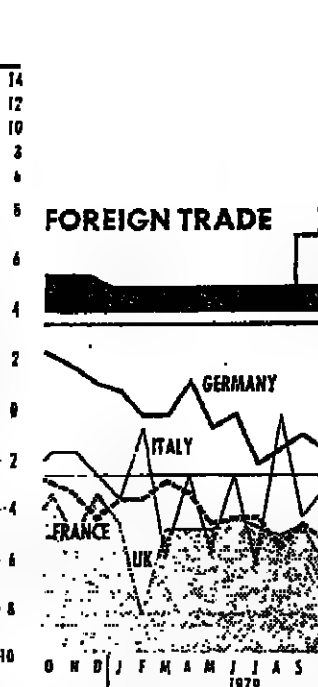
However, it has been pointed out once again by the West German employers' organization, the BDA, the Bundesbank's intervention will be effective only if wage discipline is maintained and pay awards do not exceed 6.5 per cent, beyond which level activity will suffer and the chances of a return to lower interest rates will be jeopardized. Unfortunately, the demands being prepared for the 1980 round of wage negotiations are much higher; for instance,

PRICES



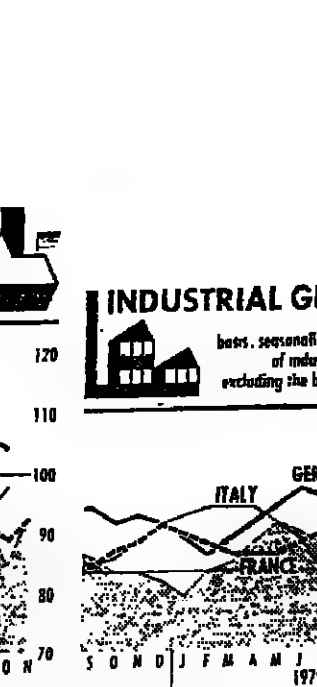
Prices: The average inflation for the four European countries improved slightly between October and November from 13 per cent to 12.5 per cent. In Britain, after the explosion caused by the increase in VAT, the rate continued to slow down, falling to 15 per cent, whereas in Italy it has once again climbed to 20 per cent. In West Germany it remained stable at 3 per cent and in France it fell to just under 12 per cent. These rates are calculated on the basis of the past three months. The year-on-year rates are 5.7 per cent in West Germany, 11.5 per cent in Britain and 18.7 per cent in Italy. In the case of West Germany, the price calculations are based on the old index, which Europa will retain. With the new index, the annual rate is 5.3 per cent instead of 5.7 per cent.

FOREIGN TRADE



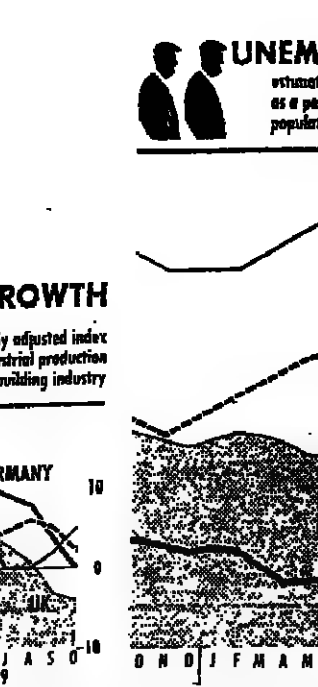
Foreign trade: Cover of imports by exports (calculated fob.cif and seasonally adjusted) fell in West Germany once again during October to 104 per cent. Italy achieved a slight improvement, from 96 per cent in September to 98 per cent in October, while France and Britain recorded increases between October and November, from 89 per cent to 93 per cent and from 85 per cent to 94 per cent respectively.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH



Growth rates: between September and October, the industrial growth rate slipped back in France (+2 per cent), levelled off in West Germany (0 per cent), continued to decline in Britain (-3 per cent) and improved in Italy (+5 per cent).

UNEMPLOYMENT



Unemployment: Seasonally adjusted unemployment as a proportion of the working population remained stable between October and November at 3.6 per cent in West Germany and at 5.25 per cent in Britain. It rose slightly in France from 6.2 per cent to 6.25 per cent after falls in two consecutive months.

Herr Eugen Loderer, president of IG Metall, is asking for 10.5 per cent. Thanks to the relatively strong position of the franc (with a surplus on current account as opposed to the balance of trade), French interest rates have only edged upwards. The base rate has seen successive increases from 10.75 per cent to 11.05 per cent and then 11.5 per cent, holding firm at that level; overnight money has actually been slightly cheaper for some time. Nevertheless, inflation remains at the high level of 12 per cent even though the rate of increase was lower in November. Once again, the outlook is conditioned not only by American rates, but also by prices and—above all—wages, which are now rising at an annual rate of nearly 13 per cent, as is borne out by the 3.6 per cent increase in hourly wages recorded in the third quarter.

Whether in the United States or in our four European countries, there are therefore no grounds to expect any significant decrease in inflation or interest rates for the time being. The recent oil price rises, the mechanisms of which are bearing an increasingly strong resemblance to Italian-style wage indexation with the parameters left to the discretion of each oil-producing country, are not going to improve the situation. The price per barrel doubled between the end of 1978 and the end of last year and, since the Opec members failed to agree upon a ceiling price at their meeting in Caracas on December 17, the upward trend will continue.

However, the lessons of 1974 and 1975 have not been forgotten and the industrialized countries will try to remain flexible and steer a middle course between the risks of inflation and recession until their partners, both large and small, become reasonable once again.

Maurice Bommensath

James Rothman looks at forecasts for the decade

Energy is the present obsession

The forecasts which have been made about the coming decade reflect the topics which countries are concerned and the degree to which they are interested in taking a long-term view. Energy is revealed as the present obsession.

The business information service Predicasts holds a data bank of forecasts taken from 2,500 journals throughout the world. Analysis of this shows that only about 2 per cent of the forecasts made for the Europe countries or the EEC as a whole cover as long a period as 10 years and have been made recently. There are some 200 long-term forecasts in the subject areas of population, employment, national income and expenditure, production and business activity vehicles—and energy. Well over half of these long-range forecasts are on energy, oil or related topics. This shows the way energy dominates national and international planning.

Germany is the Europe country most prone to report energy forecasts and France the least. It may be, however, that forecasts are a substitute for, instead of an incentive to, action. After all France plans to produce 20 per cent more electricity from nuclear energy by 1990 than Germany. France is also revising its forecasts upwards while objections in Germany are forcing a downward revision (1).

Germany is also the country most ready to publish 10-year forecasts on other topics besides energy. Italy, not France is the country most reluctant to take a long view on these. When we reviewed the success of forecasts made 10 years ago in last month's Europa we commented that a range rather than a single figure might be more meaningful. Few of the forecasts listed quoted ranges. As a substitute the table shows

Forecasts for the 1980s				
	Population	Labour force ⁽¹⁾	GNP	GNP per capita
Italy	.43	.52	4.2	3.3-3.9 ⁽¹⁾
OECD ⁽¹⁾			4.7-7.1	
France	.44	.58	4.0-4.1 ⁽¹⁾	3.4-3.8 ⁽¹⁾
OECD ⁽¹⁾			3.8-5.4	
Germany	-.42	-.20	3.1-3.5 ⁽¹⁾	3.4-3.7 ⁽¹⁾
OECD ⁽¹⁾			3.0-4.9	
UK	.14	.52	2.1-3.1 ⁽¹⁾	2.8-2.9 ⁽¹⁾
OECD ⁽¹⁾			2.8-3.9	
EEC	.18-4.1 ⁽²⁾	.38	3.3-3.8 ⁽¹⁾	3.5 ⁽¹⁾
OECD ⁽¹⁾			2.4-5.2	

⁽¹⁾ Interludes: UK becomes a net exporter * Conseil Economique et Social, June 1979.

Source: Except where otherwise indicated forecasts in Predicasts data bank ⁽¹⁾ number of forecasts in range.

for gross national product and energy the highest and lowest figures when the Predicasts data bank contained more than one worldwide estimate.

Also included in the table are figures taken from the Interludes study (2) referred to by Philippe Seymann last month. This report modelled the future on the basis of six alternative scenarios or sets of assumptions. The only national figures are for the strong and moderate growth cases and in both national productivity is assumed to converge towards a common level. The EEC range is wider because of estimates for other scenarios. The lowest value quoted for 1990 is for a situation in which growth slows but the developed countries continue to diverge in their productivity levels along the lines discussed in last month's Europa (3). The major economic groups are also assumed to adopt a protectionist policy towards each other.

None of the countries will show much growth in population over the next 10 years and Germany will actually experience a reduction. There will, however, be increases in the proportion of the population who are available to work (4). In spite of this, national economies are expected to grow only slightly more rapidly than in the 1970s. As we saw last month, forecasts in 1969 were too prone to believe that past trends would continue. They could be making the same mistake again, in the sense that they have covered on too narrow a range of values. The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development figures for the EEC escape this pitfall.

The figures in the different columns have generally come from different original sources. Consequently they need not be consistent with each other. In the United Kingdom, for example, gnp per capita if calculated indirectly from forecast changes in gnp and population would range between growth rates of 2.0 per cent a year and 3.2 per cent instead of 2.8 per cent to 2.9 per cent as shown in the table. In either case the figures all

suggest the standard of living measured in terms of gnp per capita will improve in the continental countries by 3 to 4 per cent a year but the rate of growth in the United Kingdom will lag behind by a half to one percentage point each year. Because of the effects of compound growth this means that over a 10-year period the standard of living on the Continent would improve by more than 40 per cent while in the United Kingdom it will rise by less than a third.

National growth figures such as these do not reflect the distortions caused by exchange rate changes. In Interludes (2) even on the extreme assumption of moderate divergent growth, Japan in 1990 in terms of 1970 dollars is forecast to have a lower per capita product per capita than North America. At present exchange rates Japan is already treading on the United States heels. Ideally comparative forecasts over long periods should be made in terms of purchasing power parities so that exchange rate induced changes in the price of imported goods can be taken into account.

It looks from the table as if stagflation will continue. Prices will rise fast enough to more than double during the decade everywhere, except in Germany and by 1990 unemployment will be about 7 per cent in Germany and 10 per cent elsewhere.

One of the causes of these gloomy prognoses is that in the 1980s the controlling factor of production is likely to be, not labour or capital, but energy. Indeed it is arguable that instead of measuring efficiency in terms of output per man-hour or earnings on capital employed we should start looking at industries in terms of value added per kWh.

The table suggests that with the exception of Germany which may be more hopeful of achieving conservation, energy consumption will grow at about the same rate as the economy. The EEC Commission finds the picture incompatible with the stark necessity of limiting oil imports (5). As our table shows, oil imports into France, Ger-



An unemployed man in the north-east of England with coal gleaned from the beach. Unemployment in the United Kingdom could rise steeply this decade.

Photograph: Brian Harris.

many and Italy will rise quite slowly. United States demand for oil imports, however, is expected to increase by 5.3 per cent a year so that between 1976 and 1990 they will more than double (6), (7). Another way to get a wide range of forecasts is to carry out a survey. SRI International (8) surveyed more than 1,000 executives in more than 25 countries to find out their view of prospects for the 1980s. The executives also thought

energy would be a difficulty. Even so, they may have been too optimistic. Most thought oil prices would rise in line with inflation at least until 1985 but some of those most involved with oil thought they would rise even faster. Furthermore, more executives were expecting oil import levels into the United States to fall. As we have seen, the official forecast to the International Energy Agency is that they will rise substantially. In Europe unemployment, justifiably in view of the table, was thought likely to constrain government policy, create political unrest and be a major problem.

Inflation was seen as another major destabilizing force. Interestingly enough the execu-

tives considered it was not so much the average rate of inflation as the uncertainty caused by fluctuations above or below that rate and their impact on foreign exchange which would cause difficulties. If for example industry had a clear view of the future course of oil prices it would then be more likely to invest in energy-saving buildings and plant.

A severe recession was often mentioned as a possibility for the early 1980s in the United Kingdom and United States but there was thought to be less chance of this happening in Western Europe. The growth industries were expected to be electronics followed by medicine, biology and food. Interludes (2) also considered that besides the

obvious area of electronics, bio-industry—the application of biology to industry—would be an important growth area along with the development of new forms of energy and, if legal problems were resolved, the recovery of minerals from the sea bed.

Finally it is worth considering whether we will continue to rely so heavily on forecasts to deal with change in 10 years' time. As we have seen, forecasts, though useful, are fallible. For this reason Interludes talks of "managing the unpredictable" and says that governments should "create conditions in which the most favourable developments can occur and reduce the risks of breakdowns and procure the means of coping

with them if they should occur". It is to be hoped that government and industry will adopt this approach of making it easier to adapt to change so that it is less necessary for them to try to foresee it.

1. Energy Objectives for the Community for 1990, EEC, 1979.
2. Facing the Future, OECD, 1979.
3. Europa, November, 1979.
4. See also Europa, August, 1978.
5. As (1) above.
6. OECD Observer July, 1979.
7. See also Lucas, Europa, November, 1979.
8. Leading Edge, SRI International, spring, 1979.

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مكتبة الأحياء

The range of personalities elected to the European Parliament ensures that the institution, whatever its political limitations, is not lacking in vitality. These two articles review the style of the assembly and some of the characters who sit in it

Stateless politicians or struggling idealists?

At the new European Parliament, some members have already made their mark—outstanding linguists, chairmen of multinational groups, or dedicated human rights campaigners.

The British Conservatives include some of the most accomplished members.

Mr David Curry, aged 35, won a Kennedy Scholarship in 1966 to study in the United States, where he attended Dr Henry Kissinger's lectures at Harvard. He speaks perfect French and is married to a French woman. He is a journalist and has been in charge of European affairs on the *Financial Times* since 1975.

He makes no bones about the reasons for his presence in Strasbourg. "After Brussels and Paris, I would be limiting my horizons if I went back to live in London, where they are always debating the issues of 20 years ago," he said. "But the root of the problem is elsewhere: the United Kingdom has lost its position in the world, so we need new ideas. This is why, he confided, "I am elected to the European Parliament, not because they are exporting intrinsically British ideas."

Another journalist is Lord Nicholas Bethell, aged 41, who has written for *The Times*, worked for the BBC, and published a biography of Wladyslaw Gombolka. Educated at Harrow, he reads Arabic and speaks Russian. He has been in the European Parliament since 1975 and has specialised in European consumer affairs and human rights in the Soviet block, where he is no longer allowed to travel.

The most gifted linguist of the 410 is probably Mr Robert Battersby, aged 35. He is educated in Russian and modern Greek at Cambridge and studied at the Sorbonne. He also speaks Italian, Spanish and German, and has some knowledge of Arabic, Chinese and several Central European languages. Before becoming a principal administrator in the European Commission in Brussels, Mr Battersby acquired sound business experience as sales manager of the building company Contractors Ltd.

Mr Battersby's contemporary, Sir David Nicholson, is chairman of Rothmans International, and was chairman of British Airways from 1971 to 1975. Nor is he the only senior executive of a multinational among the European parliamentarians. Mr Peter Beazley, aged 57, is one of ICI's managers in Europe. He speaks four foreign languages and knows West Germany particularly well, having lived there for seven years.

Mr Madsen Soligman is marketing director of the 60-company APV Group, but this, perhaps, tells us less about the man than his Harrow education, his membership of the Royal Institute of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Thames Yacht Club, and his hobbies: music, gardening and cricket.

Miss Norveja Forster, a walking enthusiast and squash player, has no reason to be intimidated by these men. She is chairman of her own marketing consultancy, and an officer of the British Association of Women Company Directors.

Of the Tory Lords, one of the most striking personalities at the European Parliament is Baroness Diana Elles, a barrister educated not only in England but also at the Sacred Heart in Florence and the Cours Dupuy in Paris. She was a wartime WRAF officer.

The Baroness sat in the European Parliament before the elections and was a member of the British delegation to the United Nations, after which she wrote a report for the United Nations on the rights of aliens.

She had the idea of forming the European Youth Orchestra, which Mr Edward Heath conducted.

Another member of the nobility is the young Marquess of Douro, a director of an American investment company who is also a farmer and a member of the National Farmers' Union. Lord O'Hagan is roughly the same age (34) and went to Eton, which did not prevent him from turning up in jeans to the pre-election Party, where he sat as an independent and was wont to adopt an anti-establishment stance. He now sports a suit of impeccable cut, which could have something to do with his marriage to Princess Tamara.

Intermediary

Social Christian list. The other is Mr Jiri Pelikan, a Czech political refugee since the Soviet invasion of his country in 1968, who was stripped of his nationality and took Italian citizenship in order to stand as a Socialist.

"I am so completely European that this did not represent the slightest problem to me," the archduke explained. "Moreover, I have spoken to Jiri Pelikan and our approaches are parallel, since we want to show by our presence that East Europe, where there are no human rights, is not forgotten."

For the Archduke, Europe means above all a common culture founded on the individual rights established by Christianity, all of which is to be cry from the European campaign.

The Archduke devoted part of his European electoral campaign in Bavaria to the adoption of French as the *lingua franca* of Europe, and he now French European Parliament study and archduke which was up this autumn. Thus an Austro-German citizen finds himself at the head of a transnational committee made up of Italian, French, German, and Austrian members of the European Parliament, including Mme Antoinette Spaak of the Front des Francophones, and French members of all political creeds, notably the Académicien M. de la Druon, the former Minister for Cultural Affairs.

In his political group, the European People's Party, the Archduke sits alongside the former President of the Bundestag and the European Christian Democratic Group, Herr Kai-Uwe von Hassel, the instigator of the European Parliament debate on arms. Some of Herr von Hassel's French colleagues were bitterly critical of him for having attempted to widen the membership of the Parliament, especially in view of his position at the head of the Western European Union, whose province this was.

Among the other leading international figures, several are members of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), Herr Oskar Venz, president of the powerful confederation of German trade unions (IGB), represents the West German labour movement. Frau Luise Herkholz is one of Herr Willy Brandt's supporters concerned with the current affairs leading a European committee on the protection of the architectural and

the stateless persons of politics, ready year in and year out to espouse lost causes, mean and narrow-minded front men for pressure groups who do not give a fig for Europe and only look after their own interests?

Or, on the other hand, brave champions of a community ideal which is still struggling to make progress; pioneers of a futuristic concept "that goes beyond parties", in which everyone, whether representing the powerful or the most insignificant minorities, shall have the same opportunity to make his voice heard.

Somewhere between these two extremes is the somewhat hasty new—which is in danger of becoming consensated with time—that tends to be formed of the European Parliament. The truth, as usual, lies somewhere in the middle, a truth which above anything else must be anchored to the rise and fall of hopes and disappointments that have seen the light of day since the historic vote on June 10.

There is no doubt—and it would be foolish to deny it—that the Community Assembly, voted into power by the direct suffrage of the nine EEC countries, arose from beneath a banner of indifference and general apathy. Another useful organization, it was said at the time, that would be costly and above all ineffective, bearing

cultural heritage of the old Continent.

Of the French, several members of the *Union pour la Démocratie Française* (UDF), such as M Jean Lecanuet and M Pierre Pflimlin, have always been convinced Europeans and, moreover, played an important role under the Fourth Republic in the launching of the Community. Few of them, however, have experience of Asia, with the limited exception of M Edgar Faure, a former prosecutor at Nuremberg and one of the initiators of France's recognition of China in 1964. Other exceptions can be found among the Socialist members, such as Dr Gerard Jacuet, vice-president of the European

in mind the strict limits fixed in its regard by the Treaties of Rome. A lesser evil, in short, that was inevitable but not dangerous.

Never before, perhaps, was such a striking error of assessment committed. Today, united Europe has got to take notice of its Parliament, which is by no means resigned to being a simple rubber stamp, endorsing what is laid down by the Brussels Commission. The history of the last brief weeks of 1979 proves this: the bitter conflict over the Community budget shows how much the 410 European deputies have suppressed in six months of what, in the view of many observers, should have been Strasbourg's golden exile.

It is worth asking, at all events, what Arabian phoenix has brought about this transformation, which was perhaps not foreseen in the calculations of the politicians. There is obviously a driving force in the composition of Parliament, elected by direct suffrage and therefore responsible, beyond any argument on the subject, for the hundreds of millions of electors who took the trouble to go to the poll six months ago.

Second, there is the gradual discovery of the way in which the European Assembly can function as a sounding box for national claims, a discovery, this, that was accompanied by

the formation of a committee on human rights in the European Parliament. (The Council of Europe already has one.) As a practical measure, he got as many members as would agree to sign a petition for the release of 10 Czechoslovak Charter 77 campaigners who had been arrested.

An old friend of Mr Pelikan—the two men have known each other for 30 years—is another who could not be accused of apathy. This is Signor Marco Pannella, who had actually invited Mr Pelikan to stand as a candidate for the Radical party but, as he acknowledged, "I fully understood that he could have been uncomfortable about some of our policies."

Indeed the Italian Radicals have been making a name for themselves with their campaign in Italy in favour of divorce, abortion, conscientious objection and homosexual rights. Signor Pannella had a brush with the Sofia authorities in 1968 when demonstrating against the entry by Warsaw Pact troops into Czechoslovakia.

The other Radical members are no laggards when it comes to militancy. Signora Emma Bonino, aged 31, was arrested in June, 1975 and spent several days in prison before being released on bail. The Italian authorities still accuse her (she has not yet been tried) of being an accessory to abortions by running a pregnancy termina-

tion advice bureau. She has since won a seat in the Italian Parliament and is a convinced feminist. However, she intends to extend her horizons beyond this cause and become a spokesman of minorities.

The other Radical member is more of an intellectual, but no conformist. The "enfant terrible" of communism," Signora Maria-Antonietta Macciocchi gained her seat after the recent resignation of Signor Leonardo Sciascia, the Sicilian writer who decided to restrict himself to the single mandate of being an Italian Member of Parliament so that he could take a close hand in the proceedings of the commission of inquiry into the assassination of the Christian Democrat leader, Signor Aldo Moro.

Before being elected as Member of Parliament for Naples in 1968, Signora Macciocchi had been a long-serving militant in the Italian Communist party, which she joined in 1942. But she claims that she has never been a Stalinist. Admittedly, she was rather unsettling in her proclaimed sympathy for the 1968 student movement. Moreover, the interest in the Chinese experiment which she showed in her book *De la Chine*, published in 1971, marked the beginning of her estrangement from the Italian Communist party.

Relations continued to deteriorate thereafter, because of her hostility to the formula of the "historic compromise" between Communists and Christian Democrats. In the end her attendance at the far-left rally held in September, 1977, in Bologna—the cradle of Italian communism—led to her exclusion from the Communist Party.

These Italian militants are not on strange territory in Strasbourg, however. Signor Pannella has been the Paris correspondent of *Il Giorno*, Signora Macciocchi has lived in France for much of the time since 1962; a former Paris correspondent of the Communist daily *L'Unité*, she now lectures in sociology at Vincennes University and, recently, at the Sorbonne, she presented a political science thesis on her collected works.

Indeed, the Radical party consciously seeks to be internationalist in its cause, in its action and also in its choice of leadership. Significantly, its president is a Frenchman, M Jean Fabre, aged 32, who in 1977 was sentenced, in his absence, by the armed forces standing tribunal to four months imprisonment for sending back his national service papers. He was sent to

Frances prison late in October, and party members were refused leave by the French authorities to visit him on the eve of their conference. Eventually he was freed on November 28 and exempted from military service.

For Signor Mario Capanna, the Italian extreme left-wing member, he has already drawn attention to himself with a speech in which he addressed the assembly for several minutes—in Latin.

Having made a close scrutiny of the Parliament's rules of procedure, the Italian Radicals tabled several thousand amendments. As passionate supporters of international action against famine Signori Pannella, Bonino and Macciocchi began their campaign by announcing tragic news: 60 million people, including 17 million children, could be dying of starvation each year. They then put forward totally new proposals for the formation of international brigades to combat hunger, working in all countries affected, and the foundation of an organization "of the Amnesty International type".

Using less spectacular methods, the Methodist Mr Winston Griffiths, is another who works for the great international causes. A Labour member born in Africa 35 years ago, he has always taken the keenest interest in international affairs, especially the development of the Third World. He and the Irish MP Mr Richie Ryan are the only MEPs to belong to Amnesty International. However, Mr Ryan's background is rather more conventional: a member of Fine Gael (the party at present in opposition), he has held office as the Irish Minister of Finance, has been a director of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and a governor of the European Investment Bank, and he was Amnesty International's special envoy to the Middle East in 1969 and 1970.

This handful of dedicated human rights campaigners shows the better face of Europe, allowing it to give many countries ravaged by dictatorship and torture a demonstration, albeit imperfect, of how freedom works. Moreover, it is there that Europe's strength lies rather than in the wrangling over the extension of the European Parliament's powers.

Laurent Leblond and Serge-Allain Rozenblum

Mario Fasanotti looks at employment

Where jobs are on the increase

From 1971 to 1976, 600,000 jobs have disappeared in Europe. There are, however, some areas where employment has increased, and this is the case of Prato, a textile manufacturing area which has witnessed all the buffeting of the commercial and financial trials and tribulations of these past few years.

In this region, employment has increased in these critical years by more than 1,500 jobs. There, on the banks of the river Bisenzio, the economic forecasting wizards have been made to look silly; they had predicted, at the beginning of the 1970s, an inevitable decline in the Italian textile industry, which they considered an industry past its prime, decaying even. Initially, it seemed that events would bear them out. Factories closed, the number of people employed fell, and a "black" working—the ancient remedy for the alternating ups and downs of the trade cycle (a rapid cycle, in the case of the textiles industry)—became increasingly widespread.

As the years went by, Prato, together with another Italian textiles manufacturing area, Biella, reversed the situation and now those who considered that the products coming from the developing countries would inevitably carry the day. Today, a number of Prato manufacturers are even going to Tokyo, to negotiate direct with the Japanese and other Asian peoples, to whom they illustrate the happy story of their own particular products.

Made in Italy.

At Prato, and by Prato we mean an area about 700 kilometres square, comprising 13 communes and a population of approximately 30,000 people — are concentrated two thirds of the carding spindles in Italy, and a fifth of those all over the world, as well as 55 per cent of the textile firms and units in all the country, and 30 per cent of the people working in the trade.

The secret of this success, which also has its negative aspects, lies in the small size of the individual firms. The average firm in Prato is less than half the national average in size. One out of five Italian textile workers works in Prato, and the rule, which has been followed almost automatically down the years, is decentralized production. There are 10,000 small and very small firms, with 50,000 employees, which means approximately five employees to each local unit.

One point on which trade unions and employers alike are agreed is that this is a unique phenomenon, the result of historical and cultural conditions. Is it a pattern that could be exported? "No," the chairman of the manufacturers in the area, Signor Lamberto Cecchi,

says. "To imitate Prato you would have to construct another Prato, a city where nothing is considered as having been won, where each day you have to invent afresh."

These small firms, which are mostly family concerns, each specialize in a specific process. They all serve the manufacturing complex as a whole, which is organized to sell the product. It is a kind of large human body with certain main functions to other organs. Unless you look at this textile centre in this perspective, you run the risk of not understanding the happiest example in "in-between" Italy; the Italy, that is, that lies between the great industrial concentrations of the North (Milan, Turin, Genoa) and the precarious conditions of the South.

One has to bear in mind human and historical factors. With regard to the former, a recent study has listed a few—a tradition of hard working and a readiness for risk-taking in business on the part of the population (everyone thinks he has a field-marshal's baton in his haversack); a spirit of independence (everyone aspires to become a "boss" in his own small way); a preference for having one's own trade, rather than being impersonally employed; a respect for creative ability, and manual skill.

In this region where the most classic individual values of the liberal economy proudly survive, the level of entrepreneurial risk is high. This is shown by the continuous pattern of growth and decline, the rapid turnover of old firms failing and new firms being formed. It is the very opposite, in short, of the assisted economy.

EUROPA

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Business Woman of The Year 1979.

The Times Veuve Clicquot Award.



To Ann Burdus, Chairman of The McCann and Company Group, we extend our warmest congratulations.

She is the winner of the 1979 Times Veuve Clicquot Award.

The lady, who in the eyes of our judges, most clearly embodies the spirit of Veuve Clicquot herself—Madame Clicquot, an enterprising young widow who flouted the prejudices and constraints of the nineteenth century and founded one of the Great Champagne Houses of France.

With nominations from the broadest spectrum of commerce and industry, selection is never easy. And this year's finalists all held professional and personal qualifications of an extremely high order indeed. They were: Anne Miles, Managing Director of Warwick Records—Stephanie Shirley, Chairman and Founder Director of F International—Carmen Callil, Chairman and Managing Director of Virago—Dame Margaret Weston, the Director of the Science Museum.

But after due deliberation our panel decided that Ann Burdus was to be the 1979 Business Woman of the Year.

And looking at her achievements it's not hard to see why.

Ann received her grounding in research and advertising at Mather and Crowther and then progressed quickly to Research Director at Garland Compton.

It was in 1971 that she took up the same position at McCann-Erickson.

The next seven years saw one success after another.

She was one of the team that can rightly claim responsibility for the company's rapid growth between 1971-78 and feels that during this period her major contribution was to the development and scrutiny of advertising strategies.

In 1975 she became Vice-Chairman and was involved in the agency's division into three separate companies.

And before her appointment to Chairman in 1977 Ann worked at the International Headquarters in New York and was on the four man executive committee responsible for the organisation's nine agencies in the U.S.A.

Her pace never slackens. Since Ann's return to London she's resumed her position on the Council of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, has been advising the World Health Organisation on advertising and control systems and is also one of the five advisers now examining the marketing of British agricultural products for the Minister of Agriculture.

It is with confidence in her continuing success that we ask you to join us in wishing her well.

If you know someone who you think could be the Business Woman of the year 1980, please contact Kerry Falcon, The Times, New Printing House Square, Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ for further details.



Community states have divergent views on working hours



The last meeting of ministers of labour and social security in Brussels did nothing for the hopes of the European trade union movement; the attempt to involve the Community in the unions' campaign for shorter working hours is unlikely to succeed in the foreseeable future.

For some years the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) has been pressing for its proposals on working hours to be accepted as an urgent item of EEC policy. But

very little has come of this which can be described as a success in terms of its policy aims. On the contrary, in its decision on adjustment of working

hours the Council of Ministers said nothing which can be of any real comfort or assistance to the union. Member state governments are not aiming at a set of blanket regulations for the EEC, but at the most are prepared to sanction a certain degree of Community alignment in the approach to the problems in question.

The ETUC contends that the ministers attending the Council meeting were too partial in their support for the employers' interests. It would be truer to say, however, that

in view of the divergent economic and social systems prevailing in the EEC no common denominator was possible.

Conflicting views are not only found between the two sides of industry. There is just as much disagreement in the EEC between one member state and another on the extent to which a fairer sharing of the work available might help to solve the problems of employment.

Whereas Belgium and the Latin countries are inclined to include shorter working hours

among Community strategies for bringing about a return to full employment, other member states openly shrink from any such idea. They are afraid that accelerated measures in this area would only make it harder than it is already to change the economic structure, and would in practice frustrate the creation of new jobs. They are certainly not willing to be brought to a united view by anything that Brussels may decide on its own. There is the further point that direct intervention as regards the labour market is in some EEC countries politically out of the question and also proscribed by law.

In West Germany, for instance, the Government is not only keeping out of the wages arena on principle, but also leaves agreements on working hours to be settled through the machinery of collective bargaining. On the other hand the Belgian Government recently came out loud and clear in favour of a gradual reduction in the working week provided that the trade unions are prepared to accept in return corresponding reductions in wages and salaries.

The important thing for the trade unions is that the introduction of shorter working hours as a deliberate feature of employment policy would also open the way to greater social progress. For the employers the main issue is the higher operating costs and the impairment of their competitive position in world markets which would result.

The EEC Commission has, although somewhat cautiously, pronounced in favour of a policy of work-sharing. Its chief concern is to channel the heated discussion going on in member states in such a way that it can lead to greater convergence in national economic policies.

Brussels estimates that the labour force potential in the Europe of the Nine will most probably have risen by 1985 by 500,000 to 800,000. However great the efforts to boost economic growth, they are unlikely, in the Commission's view, to be enough to cause any appreciable decline in the current rate of unemployment.

The Commission has therefore, gone part of the way at least towards accepting the demands of the employees' representatives. It is advocating an EEC skeleton agreement of a kind which will assimilate the prerequisite conditions for ensuring that employers remain competitive and at the same time give the Community a more social face.

In its draft proposals for the Council's decision the Commission indicated that it was expecting "through the introduc-

tion of short-term measures for the restructuring of working hours" to contribute towards an improvement in the employment situation and better working conditions". It also urged that this policy should be incorporated in a Community framework.

At the same time the EEC authorities believe that the costs of work sharing would need to be "fairly distributed among the parties concerned". Mobility of labour and capital investment and restructuring of industry must not be allowed to be adversely affected as a consequence of work-sharing.

But the Council of Ministers did not concur with the tenor of these proposals. While accepting that measures for the adjustment of working hours could serve as support measures for improving the employment situation, the Council equally emphasized that a variety of factors needed to be taken into account in evaluating such measures. The Commission had requested that governments should examine with both sides of industry appropriate conditions for the shortening of annual working hours, but the decision ultimately taken falls far short of this. It mentions in this connection only "Community viewpoints which could be taken into account as occasion arises in branch or sectoral agreements in individual member states".

The tortuous language in which the Council's decision is written is a clear indication that an EEC general agreement on matters of trade and economic policy is still less difficult to achieve than on subjects of an inflammatory social nature. The EEC tripartite system consisting of government, employers and trade unions is hardly likely to make much progress in view of the lack of decision in its councils.

It is by no means improbable that a number of national unions in EEC countries will now go back to skulking in their corner of the ring. The ETUC has announced its determination to pursue the campaign for shorter working hours at Community level; but its prospects of winning over the Community to act as a spearhead for the realization of national demands are far from bright.

Wilhelm Hadler

Sound balance of information and propaganda

A broadcasting service which was inaugurated to keep the Empire informed, and which the Second World War transformed into a foreign-language service, still has an important role, Alain Evans, Senior Producer, BBC French Language Service, writes

Last November, the British Foreign Office announced that because of the financial limits imposed on it by the Government, it had decided to cut its BBC overseas services to France, Italy, Greece, Spain, Turkey, Burma and Malaya, saving £2.7m, some 6 per cent of the total budget of the BBC External Services.

The decision was condemned by most of the British press as well as a large number of members of Parliament, and in fact the Government reversed its decision and cut capital expenditure in External Broadcasting instead of vernacular services. But the whole episode raised many questions. What, in fact, is the purpose of external broadcasting beyond the frontiers of a country, as opposed to domestic broadcasting?

Perhaps the history of external broadcasting in Britain will present one aspect of the advantages of such broadcasting. It was in 1932 that the BBC's English-speaking Empire Service was inaugurated and its purpose at the time was simply to broadcast to British expatriates to keep them informed of home and international news and also to entertain them in their own language.

Any influence the broadcasts might have had on other English-speaking listeners was incidental. The Munich Pact in 1938 and the rise of Hitler and Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister, and the imminence of war convinced the Foreign Office that broadcasting overseas could help in other ways, and in January 1938 the first foreign language service began in Arabic, followed in March and September by others in German, French, Italian and Spanish.

Language services began on September 27, 1938. The BBC started these broadcasts in foreign languages at the request of the Government and their purpose was "to state clear truth with as much exactitude and sincerity as it is given to human beings to achieve; to elucidate objectively the world situation and the thoughts and actions of this country; and to build a closer understanding between peoples by providing interest, information, and entertainment each in due measure according to the needs of the many audiences".

It would probably be difficult to express better not only what the BBC has attempted to do over the years, but also what should be the objective of external broadcasting. As far as the BBC is concerned, the beginning of these vernacular languages in 1938 was rapidly followed by others as the war progressed and also as governments-in-exile were formed.

It should not be forgotten that although the British Government prescribes the languages and hours of broadcasting, as well as financing the External Services, the programme content is entirely a BBC responsibility, although, of course the programmes must be planned in the public interest. The objectivity of the BBC during the war, the decision to tell the truth, however unpalatable, are well known to listeners of that era.

But after the war, the External Services still had an important part to play, explaining the actions of Government, presenting the reaction of the opposition to Government policies (as was the case particularly during the Suez crisis), backing the national export drive and encouraging the

possibility of listening to overseas broadcasts presented in your own language, you can find out what Britain thinks of EEC policies, what Germany is doing to fight inflation, what France's nuclear policy consists of. And at a time when Europe is coming closer together but has still many problems to solve among the different countries, then surely broadcasting organizations that can "elucidate objectively the situation" should be able to achieve a closer understanding between peoples.

Furthermore, not everyone has access to foreign newspapers, or has the linguistic ability to listen to overseas broadcasts in the native language.

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Tuscany: Back to the roots of man

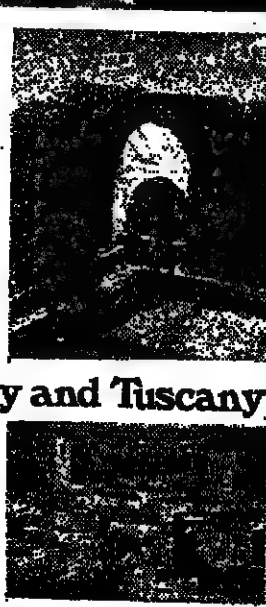


What do you expect from a holiday in Tuscany? Probably the emotion of admiring a close hand these precious testimonies of universal art which you so often come across. But is this enough for you? Then here is another Tuscany that will make your holidays an unforgettable experience. Miles of soft, hot, sandy beaches, cliffs for diving, famous seaside resorts for making friends and secluded vine groves for relaxing. And also the charm of the mountains, with ski under your feet, where, on about 60 miles of ski-run, you will discover a silent white Tuscany. And if you are thinking of a holiday for your health too, here you will find 25 spas, amongst the famous in Europe, whose ancient healthy waters will offer you a pleasant restful pause. In short, sea, country, mountains, art, food, craftsmanship, all gathered in one spot, to help you discover "man's roots". Is this enough for you?

There is Tuscany, Tuscany and Tuscany

TUSCAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

For information
Tuscan State Tourist
Office (S.N.T.)
291 Regent Street
London W1R 8AY
Tel. 439 2311



On the contrary

Phèdre après Dublin

Mon mal vient de plus loin. A peine par les traités
De Paris et de Rome je m'étais engagée,
Mon repos, mon bonheur semblait être affermi;
Dublin me montra mon superbe ennemi:
Un système agricole par trop dépensier
Qui nie la justice sur le plan financier.
Je le vis, je rougis, je palis à sa vue;
Un trouble s'éleva dans mon âme éperdue;
Mes yeux ne voyaient plus, mais je pouvais parler;
Je sentis mes collègues et transir et bailler.
Je reconnus Giscard et ses feux redoutables,

Et de Schmidt, réveillé, la patience ébranlable.
Par des sourdes menaces je crus les détourner:
Je leur fis la leçon, et pris soin de l'orner.
Vaines précautions! Cruelle destinée!
Je recherchais en vain la plus faible pitié.
Il me manque un milliard; et mes cris éternels
N'arrachèrent rien sauf des vœux fraternels.
Soumise pour l'instant, je cache mes ennuis,
Et du prochain sommet je vais cueillir les fruits.
Ce n'est plus une question par des experts cachée,
C'est Vénus toute entière à sa proie attachée.

PANGLOSS



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MRS GANDHI SWEEPS BACK

Writing just before the imposition of the Indian emergency in 1975, an American academic psephologist described elections in India as a kind of national festival or *tamasha*, a source of entertainment, education and excitement for countless millions of people. One may wonder which of these attractions have been uppermost in India's seventh general election. In some form education, certainly. When a miserably poor, illiterate peasant is faced by half a dozen or more competing candidates, the thought that he can go into a polling booth to choose one is a tiny gesture of self-assertion that gains meaning over time.

Numbers can tell. It happened in 1977. Now it has happened again. In which case the swing in Mrs Gandhi's favour against all predictions must be seen now, as in 1977, as an expression of mass feeling. Negative possibly, as in the rejection of emergency rule in 1977, and now no less in turning against the dithering ineffectiveness of the Janata coalition. But not only negative. In an election that gave the electorate no choice but between personalities the majority have found in Mrs Gandhi's favour as the only one that counts.

Observing Janata's failure, Mrs Gandhi decided that the nation's self-confidence in presenting herself as a national leader could best win the day—and it has done so handsomely. Against her was Mr Charan Singh, who is unknown in the south, and not that well known in the north either, outside his own home state, Uttar Pradesh. By now Mr Charan Singh must have lost his old appeal, seemingly more a Delhi-based opportunist, and certainly no longer a sufficiently credible spokesman of Harijan aspirations to carry national weight.

By contrast to these two rivals Mrs Gandhi campaigned all over the country. She is not identified with the Hindi-speaking political domination of the north over the south. She has done more than Mr Ram to earn the Harijan vote. Moreover in a country becoming increasingly politicized it may be noted that she is as much an ascetic and secular figure in the Hindu context as

her father was. In an era of rising Muslim political passion elsewhere she is impervious to doctrinal political pressures. Not least, to an electorate despairing of corruption among so many of its political leaders Mrs Gandhi appears as less tarnished than the others.

Given these advantages Mrs Gandhi has won back the world's largest floating vote—the electorate this time was 40 million more than in 1977, though whether excitement or entertainment brought any more to the polls than usual is still to be revealed. Reports of apathy among voters could also be true, despite the considerable majority Mrs Gandhi has collected. So it must be assumed that most of the electorate had forgotten the crimes of the emergency and remembered only such benefits as it brought—these were greater in the countryside than in the towns. It is said that the mass arrests and totally unjust imprisonments have been so quickly forgotten. It is perhaps more surprising that the Indian electorate should forget the compulsory sterilizations, or Sanjay Gandhi's brutal and unlawful clearances. On the other hand Mrs Gandhi may well have won most Harijan votes and regained the Muslim ones she lost in 1977: the Imam of Delhi's largest mosque came out in her support early in the campaign.

Mrs Gandhi's great defeat was wasted by subsequent maladministration. Will her great victory now have any different result? None of Mrs Gandhi's confidence inspires any more confidence than when in office during the emergency. Her ministers, then, were both cowardly and oppressive. Her government will be one of her own choosing rather than one of bargaining with others, ready to desert the parties they stood for in the election. That was what the prophets foresaw as a likely result if Congress (I) had no absolute majority. Nor has it been an election with any issues contested between parties. Law and order and economic progress—Mrs Gandhi's slogans—might have served any political

party in India at any time in the past.

Some might therefore see the result of this election as taking India back to the days before the emergency. Obviously Mrs Gandhi will now rebuild the Congress Party after her own fashion. But she did that after an equally outright victory in 1971 and it broke up to the point where she decided to impose the emergency. This time it is not easy to foresee what change may follow from India's indisputable choice of a leader.

Fortunately for India in the last few years favourable rainfall has brought good harvests and good harvests have promoted economic advance—until last year, which was a year of decline. Can Mrs Gandhi arrest that or does the evidence point to the rise or fall in the Indian economy having little to do with the central government in Delhi? One answer may be that Mrs Gandhi herself is much less wedded to the "socialist" pattern of society to which Congress declared its devotion in the sixties. The more political power becomes an issue the more ideology withers by the roadside. And no one believes that ideology of any kind can bring stability to India; witness the steady decline over the past twenty years of all the left-wing parties. Nothing could be more conservative than India's two communist parties, neither of which has had any fresh ideas to offer.

Such conclusions leave many questions unanswered. One is how far Mrs Gandhi has learnt the lessons of her rejection in 1977 and will curb her authoritarian tendencies. Another is the Russian presence in Afghanistan. In her public statements Mrs Gandhi has shown a leaning towards the Soviet Union ever since the fifties. Already her comment on the Soviet action has been muted while her fear of a rearméd Pakistan has been promptly and unhesitatingly exposed. Her record in office, however, has shown more caution towards Moscow than some of her sharp comments on western policy would suggest. The size of her electoral victory will not have reduced that caution.

Christians and power politics

From Canon G. B. Bentley

Sir, Much as I dislike taking issue with Cardinal Hume, I am bound to say that his article in *The Times* of January 3 would have been better for an infusion of Realpolitik. It is not very helpful to address Christians as if they could control the course of this world by adhering to the precepts of the Gospel or to suggest that it is in their power to choose effectually between armaments and the worldwide relief of hunger and poverty. The Gospel itself does not promise them any such influence upon the actions of states, nor do they in fact exercise it.

Would it be right, in any case, to try to persuade a government to neglect the defence of the people committed to its care in order to devote resources to the relief of misery elsewhere? I think not. The prime function of a state in this fallen world is to establish a sufficient measure of law and order, national and international, to allow people to live their lives with some sense of security and though they may deplore the fact, the only means of restraining international delinquency that we have so far discovered is maintaining a balance of power between nations—or groups of nations which have conflicting aims. Making its due contribution to that balance must therefore rank high among a state's priorities.

Today a balance of power means, unhappily, a balance of nuclear weapons, with all its attendant dangers. This is not the place to discuss the moral questions which Cardinal Hume raises in that connection. I will only say that they were extensively canvassed in two Christian reports published after the last war: *The Era of Atomic Power* (1946), by a commission of the British Council of Churches, and *The Church and the Atom* (1948), by an Archbishop's commission of which I was myself the scribe.

As far as I can see, the main conclusions of the commissioners still hold good. Despite the frequent abuses to which it has been subjected, the doctrine of "necessity" has its place in the moral theology of warfare, and it is possible to conceive circumstances in which it would justify the use of nuclear weapons; and since the renunciation of such weapons would, in any conflict with a power ready to use them, do more to damage us unless a state that renounced them would be falling in its duty to the people it was bound to defend.

At the present time, when Russia, having achieved superiority on its western flank, is apparently taking over each of the Germanys, and when those of us who remember the late thirties have an uncomfortable feeling of *déjà vu*, I should have thought it was the duty of Christians to face the realities of the situation themselves and to encourage others to do likewise, even if that should entail abandoning utopian dreams and the national sport of demanding money with threats.

Of course we should do our utmost to relieve hunger and poverty, but I doubt if we could do much more than we are doing in that regard; but I cannot believe that, in the world as it is, the oft-repeated call to choose between defence and charity makes any kind of sense.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. BENTLEY,
8 The Cloisters, Windsor Castle.

Towards Christian unity

From Dr J. L. Lambert

Sir, Mr Elliot Hodgkin (December 29) wonders where a Gallup poll used to be associated with Germany, and when those of us who remember the late thirties have an uncomfortable feeling of *déjà vu*, I should have thought it was the duty of Christians to face the realities of the situation themselves and to encourage others to do likewise, even if that should entail abandoning utopian dreams and the national sport of demanding money with threats.

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Yours faithfully,
G. B. BENTLEY,
8 The Cloisters, Windsor Castle.

Race in the 1981 Census

From Mr Suhail Aziz

Sir, Mr Mark Bonham Carter (January 3) has hit the nail. He is absolutely right. The uncertainty and anxiety that the other works on the rehearsals for which the ban had less serious repercussions, we decided to go ahead. I believe those decisions to be right, but the consequences of presenting under-rehearsed operas and ballets must be clear to all.

An opera house, and more particularly one which contains a major international opera and ballet company, cannot function on a five day week, and I hope that an early conclusion can be found to our current pay dispute. This will enable us to restore our original rehearsal schedules.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TOOLEY,
General Administrator,
Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden, WC2.
January 2.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

From the President of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers

Sir, Like you (leader of January 7), I wish to condemn the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan and to applaud President Carter's decision to veto a 17 million ton grain delivery to the Soviet Union. Carter's measures, which the Western and non-aligned worlds cannot but give strong support, are clearly designed to bring home to the Soviet Union that détente is indivisible and must be based on reciprocity, respect and respect for sovereignty and international law.

In this connexion, may I point out that the Soviet flagrant aggression is contrary to the spirit of détente which the Trades Union Council has followed in its relations with the Soviet trade unions in recent years. Double standards in our attitudes to international questions must come to an end.

All free trade union organizations in the West and in the Third World should call upon the Soviet trade union movement, which has consistently maintained the International Labour Organization that it is independent of the Soviet Government, to disassociate itself from this act of imperialist aggression. The Red Army must leave Afghanistan at once and let the people of that country decide their future for themselves.

If the Soviet trade union movement fails to condemn the Soviet action, then the TUC must reconsider its present policy of having fraternal exchanges with them. After the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries occupied Czechoslovakia in 1968 the TUC took a forthright stand against the communist bloc for its unprovoked attack. We cannot do less in this case. The Soviet trade unions must be left in no doubt about our disgust with their Government's unprovoked attack on a sovereign country.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY DUFFY,
President,
Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers,
110 Peckham Road, SE15,
January 7.

From Mr Arthur Latham
Sir, I am as opposed to Russian troops being in Afghanistan as I am to the presence of foreign soldiers in any part of the world.

However, some aspects of the

present furore in the West puzzle me. What precise special British or American interest is in jeopardy? Would we in principle deplore the replacement of a communist regime by a non-communist one, just as we oppose the substitution of a less illiberal pro-Russian rule?

Can the United States of Nixon and Vietnam really seethe with righteous indignation? How many US-backed dictators have replaced other US-backed dictators in, for example, South Korea? Are the British (or Suez, as recently as 1956) in any better position? How many despots have stayed or stayed in power only by virtue of the presence of the British Army in the Gulf, for example?

Finally, whatever happened to the idea of "legitimate areas of interest"? What reaction do we believe would be justified from the USSR if American forces moved into Mexico or Panama? And is not Afghanistan much closer to Russia than Cuba is to the USA?

Those who want to say that these comments imply tacit approval of the Russian involvement in Afghanistan will do so, but they will be wrong. What I am challenging is the cant of those who are no less guilty in other contexts.

Yours truly,
ARTHUR LATHAM,
17 Tudor Avenue,
Romford,
Essex.
January 3.

Bridge over the Kwae

From Mr J. D. C. Noble

Sir, As an ex-East prisoner of war, I would like to reply to Mr Budden's letter of January 2, indicating his disappointment on his visit to the River Kwae that there was no memorial on the site to commemorate the construction of "the historic bridge".

With the passing of time, the admirable film *The Bridge over the River Kwae*, much of which is fiction, has, with respect, taken over from reality. To be pedantic, there never was in fact a River Kwae as in Siamese the word Kwae means branch and therefore the bridge was built over a tributary or branch of the River Maeklong. It was destroyed by Allied bombing towards the end of the War in the East.

A much more important feat of engineering was undertaken by prisoners of war further to the North at Waddu and this combination of fact and fiction makes the film sounds today. However, the film producers preferred to place the emphasis on a smaller construction, which was completed early on during the building of the railway and therefore where casualties were relatively small. It was further up country, towards the Burma border that, owing to the Japanese inhumanity, so many of our countrymen lost their lives during the "speedy" to finish the railway. The War Graves Commission brought many back to the Chungkai and Kanchanaburi Cemeteries for decent burial. In other words, it was the film that has to a large extent produced the mystery of "the historic" bridge.

For those of us who worked on the railway, it is the war cemeteries, beautifully kept, that more than adequately provide the evidence that Mr Budden found lacking, but in my view he was misguided by the fictitious content of an admirable film with all its licence for the sensational.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. C. NOBLE,
25 Portwall Place,
Cambridge.
January 2.

Police deaf to criticisms

From Inspector Graham Marsden

Sir, We seem to be approaching a position wherein no one can speak about the police, except in the most glowing terms, without being accused of lese-majesty. Even caring friends are alleged to be part of an "orchestrated" campaign to defame a blameless service.

Criticisms are seldom answered except by accusing the critic of ill-intent. Although it is difficult to take panics seriously, it is worrying when they hold powerful offices.

One hundred and twenty thousand police officers police the 56 million or so inhabitants of this country by their consent and with the good will of most. The risk is that the good will could be dissipated by constant exposure to the shrill rejection of all criticism even when clearly based on sincere concern.

If the police are to have a voice in the debate about their own future that voice must be better informed and more evenly modulated than it is at present.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM MARSDEN, Police Inspector,
421 Derby Road,
Nottingham,
December 30.

Boycotting the Moscow Olympics

From Mr Alan S. Green

Sir, Given Russia's attitude to human rights, with countless thousands in labour camps, it was intolerable to many of us that we should contemplate joining in the playing of sham-antagonist games and the winning of the Olympic medals in Moscow. Given further proof of Russia's intentions with the rape of Afghanistan, it must be plain to even the politically naïve that it is impossible for anyone to contemplate going to the Moscow Olympics.

Revolution, as Iran proves, comes from within. We must bring home to the Russian people how loathed their Government's aims and ideas are in the free world. The lesson of the 1936 Berlin Olympics was that to take part was to allow the host nation to claim that they were everyday normalcy over their inhuman activities. Until they prove otherwise, we must not pretend the present day rulers of the USSR are part of the civilized world. The infamous Berlin Olympics of 1936 must not be mirrored by Moscow in 1980. We must boycott these games.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN S. GREEN,
30 Malvern Drive,
Woodford Green,
Essex.
January 1.

From Mr Robert Mitchell

Sir, Some years ago you printed a letter from me concerning the exclusion of a truly national multi-racial Rhodesian team from the Olympic Games, as the first overt intrusion of politics into the Olympics—the previously excluded South African team had not been multi-racial.

It gives me no joy that my prediction that Rhodesia's exclusion was the first step on a very steep and slippery slope of politicising the games, has proved only too correct. The Olympics are now political-boycotts, exclusions and so on are

ment every 8,000 miles so that, by the time we had finished with the car, we were into the fourth set of tyres. Nobody told us that these wonder tyres were incapable of taking a car at cruising speed in excess of 50/60 miles an hour until we were through the first set.

4. Two petrol tanks required replacement after spills appeared. In one case, petrol was dripping from the tank on to the exhaust pipe—a somewhat hazardous situation to find myself in.

5. The system completely overheated on three different occasions, resulting once in the AA refusing to allow us to drive home and other times in journeys punctuated by stops at alternate garages for cooling draughts to be administered.

6. An interesting fault on the oil pressure system which did not actually affect the oil pressure itself but triggered off the warning light which apparently then triggered off a safety device which cut off the petrol supply leaving us on three occasions stranded at night with a large car unable to move an inch.

These are some of the reasons why I reluctantly transferred to a foreign car of a much smaller size and considerably less "exotic" than the Rover 3500.

By the way, in case you feel that I was in fact not giving British Leyland a chance to look at the car, we wrote to Sir Michael and to date received only one reply and absolutely nothing further.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
D. E. RODRIGUES,
Managing Director,
Caxton Publications Limited,
72-90 Worship Street, EC2,
January 2.

From Sir Anthony Wagner

Sir, In the course of my article on Why the state must never take over the production of a commodity, a throwaway judgment that class is based on the ownership of the means of production, may I submit the alternative view, that the existence of social classes derives from two consequences of the division of labour: specialization, which produces different types, manners and outlooks; and organization, which leads to hierarchy. Has the abolition of private ownership of the means of production ever diminished class distinctions?

Yours truly,
ANTHONY WAGNER,
Clarenceux King of Arms,
College of Arms,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4.

Bitter lemons

From Mr Charles Gibson

Sir, I am appalled to read that lemons are the first victims of brutality in 1980. The natural habitat of the lemon is a gin and tonic, in which it receives and gives energy. It is reasonably happy in China tea or meringue pie; and it will tolerate smoked salmon. To fill this gentle fruit with wires and to fuel motors on its juice is a disgraceful practice in what is, or ought to be, the year of the Lemon.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES GIBSON,
Mountain Gate,
Temple, EC4.
January 4.

SPORT ON THE ALTAR OF POLITICS

The decision of the rugby unions to go ahead with the Lions tour of South Africa is much to be regretted. It is difficult to believe that they have given sufficiently serious and responsible consideration to the representations made by a government which could hardly be labelled left-wing or soft. It is also difficult to believe that the rugby unions' decision is entirely unmotivated politically. It amounts to little less than a judgment by rugby enthusiasts on Britain's proper policy towards the politicization of sport, an immensely difficult, complex, and ever-changing subject. If sport is, as Mr Steele-Bodger is reported to have said, a new form of warfare, that is a nasty development, but it is not one which the rugby unions can change by themselves. It is something which others besides sportsmen must try to change, with a rather more intelligent and informed approach than Mr Steele-Bodger and his colleagues appear to have shown. The rugby authorities have set their own narrow interests above what the government has suggested to be a wider interest, and above the losses that may be sustained by many other sports which hope, unlike rugby, to send representatives from the United Kingdom to the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982, and to Moscow this year. The decision to tour South Africa also considerably reduces the authority of the Sports Council's imminent fact-finding mission on apartheid in sport in that country.

Nevertheless the rugby unions have made their decision. They were perfectly free to do so. The government, for its part, had impressed on them its objections to the tour, and thereby discharged its obligations under the Commonwealth Statement on Apar-

theid in Sport of 1977, the Glen-eagles agreement. The African Supreme Council for Sport will no doubt contend that the phraseology implies that the British government is bound to find ways to prevent the players' departure by bending or changing the laws of the realm. That is certainly how they manage things in Africa. In Britain, happily, individuals are still free not only to oppose governments and cause them embarrassment, even humiliation, but to travel at will on lawful occasions, even if at times at their own risk. A diminution of these liberties in any particular diminishes the freedom of all British people, indeed, in such a case, admits the propriety of African nations requiring us to adopt totalitarian measures of government. That is not so.

The African position is perfectly clear and logical. It places the destruction of the white South African regime at the head of almost all, perhaps all, other priorities. It is unlikely that any changes in the organization of sport towards multi-racialism, unless these were in the context of a complete end to apartheid, would cause the African countries to take a different attitude towards sporting contact with South Africa. Their call for a total sports boycott is part of their policy of putting pressure against South Africa on every possible front, and it is consistent with that policy that they should try to penalize Britain in pursuit of it. It is an equally clear principle that the British Government should resist such pressure, even if the consequences are detrimental to the activities of participants in sports other than rugby. If it is right that the Government, now that persuasion has failed, should play no active part in stopping

the Lions' tour, it is equally right for it not to seek to impose a decision on British participation in the Olympic Games in Moscow. The brutal Russian invasion of Afghanistan has renewed calls for a boycott of the games. It should be up to the athletes and the various sporting bodies involved to decide whether or not to go. No doubt they will be subjected to enough information and pressure from supporters of both sides of the argument to enable them to come to a responsible decision. The games themselves are a travesty of their original objectives. Instead of the emphasis being placed on the struggle between individual sportsmen, as is envisaged in the Olympic Charter, the games have become a forum for national glorification. The ideal of pure amateurism has long since gone, though the hypocrisy exhibited by some countries in claiming that their athletes are not professionals remains. It would be an improvement if the Olympic Games, like Wimbledon, were to be unashamedly open to all athletes.

Nevertheless there is an argument, which should not be ignored, that in spite of the political overtones that have now become the rule rather than the exception, the Olympic Games are still capable of providing a basis for enhanced international understanding, quite apart from providing the opportunity for the world's top athletes to compete against each other, and giving entertainment to the hundreds of millions watching the events on television. Whether or not Moscow can provide the necessary atmosphere of goodwill is another matter, but the sportsmen must be left to be the final arbiters of that. Freedom to go to South Africa means freedom to go to Moscow.

An issue of 'Picture Post'

From Sir Tom Hopkinson

Sir, I was impressed by Philip Norman's article (December 29) and by all he had learned about B. L. Coombes, the Welsh miner, then unknown, whose article led the issue of *Picture Post* for New Year 1981.

That issue—"A Plan for Britain"—aroused more interest and produced a bigger correspondence than any in the magazine's history. Discussion of Britain's "War Aims" was generally discouraged by the wartime Government as being divisive. However, we were men and receiving letters from men and women in the forces demanding to know just what kind of Britain they for, and what kind of Britain they could expect after the war.

It was in response to this feeling that we decided for the first issue that we decided to draw up as complete a national plan as possible in plain, strictly rationed pages. Doubling my own knowledge in this field, I asked Julian Huxley to share the editing with me, which he did.

Two days after it went on sale, being out of London and anxious to know the response, I rang the secretary and asked how many letters had arrived. There were, she said, the editorial office with the postal department, and in a minute she

came back to report: "So many sacks of letters have come in that they haven't been able to undo and distribute them."

A few weeks later we held a weekend conference at Edward Hulton's house in London to which a number of the letter writers were invited. B. L. Coombes was there, with other contributors and members of the staff, to take matters a stage further, and from this there were some quite practical results.

In the climate of today, such an enthusiasm, for a project out of which one of the participants could expect any immediate advantage, may well seem incredible.

Yours etc,
TOM HOPKINSON,
6 Marine Parade,
Penarth,
South Glamorgan, S.A.
December 31.

Dispute at Covent Garden

From Sir John Tooley

Sir, I am grateful to William Mann (January 2) for drawing attention to the loss of a dress rehearsal for *Traviata* through a ban on Saturday rehearsals by the Royal Opera House Orchestra. The reason for that ban, however, is not overtime pay, but the unwillingness of the musicians to accept the management's current basic pay offer.

How will the world's airlines cope with rising fuel costs? p15

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

صباح الخير

Bankers rule out sale of reserves to hold back rush into gold

From Peter Norman, Basle, Jan 7

Western central bank governors today ruled out any concerted sale of gold from reserves to quell the speculative rush of funds into the metal on the world's bullion markets.

The idea, which has been suggested at various times in the past few months by Herr Fritz Leutwiler, the Swiss National Bank president, foundered when it became apparent that it would receive no support from the West German Federal Bank and the Bank of France.

The gold price yesterday soared again in London, after a new price record set in Hong Kong overnight. There was two-way trading in the metal, however, and some semblance of normality in the markets after the hectic trading of last week. Although the price closed at \$40 an ounce higher than on Friday, it had slipped during the afternoon and closed at \$630 an ounce, level with last week's peak.

The gyrations of the gold price were discussed at some length yesterday at the regular monthly meeting of central bankers here.

There was some satisfaction that the gold boom had not yet had a truly adverse effect on currency markets. Although the dollar had to be supported last week by central bank intervention, the scale of intervention, at an estimated \$500 million on Wednesday and Thursday, was comparatively small. One senior central bank official went so far as to claim that last week's events showed there was no obvious link between gold price movements and dollar stability.

However, although currency markets were comparatively calm, the gold rush for most of yesterday, there was sudden weakening in the dollar late in the day.

In New York, gold closed at \$324 to \$329 after reaching a high of \$635 and a low of \$611. The pound rose the day at \$2.2620, up 24 cents from Friday's close. Against a basket of currencies the pound rose 0.5 point to 70.8 per cent of its 1971 value.

The dollar also weakened somewhat against the Swiss and German currencies.

Behind their facade of aloof calm, however, the West's central bankers do have some worries about the gold price rise. It has led to a dramatic increase in the value of the dollar, which has been a source of concern for the central banks.

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Government advisory report recommends rapid development of newly emerging industries

Britain urged to import foreign technology

By Kenneth Owen, Technology Editor

Specific technology strategies for different areas of industry should be developed by the National Economic Development Council's sector working parties, the Government's Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development (ACARD) said yesterday.

The Department of Industry should study how the Government could foster the rapid development of industries based on newly emerging technologies such as information technology and biotechnology.

And the department should also examine how to stimulate the transfer of technology from the United Kingdom to other countries, perhaps by setting up a new agency.

These are among the conclusions of an ACARD report on "technological change: threats and opportunities for the United Kingdom", which was presented yesterday by Sir James Menter, principal of Queen Mary College, London University. Sir James is a deputy chairman of ACARD and chaired the working party which wrote the report.

The Menter report is the latest in a series of official reports which have all concluded that if Britain is to survive as a trading nation, industry must introduce new technology more rapidly than in the past in order to match the performance of her competitors.

Though the conclusion is familiar, the ACARD document does more than previous reports in following the recommendations of the Menter report with recommendations on what should be done. It concerns itself mainly with



Sir James Menter: chaired the working party which wrote the report.

the implications for research and development, but indicates the wider issues involved.

Among other recommendations, the council suggests that engineers might be appointed to British Embassies and other offices abroad; and the Government should pay greater attention to the technological needs of small firms.

The Department of Industry should try to direct research and development towards the service industries, particularly those such as information processing, software and systems design, and computer-aided design—which export potential.

Different industries require different forms of technological innovation, the report says: some need new production methods while others need new materials and design procedures. Hence the recommendations for the sector-by-sector technology strategies.

The research and development work of the Department of Industry, the industrial research associations and the relevant research councils should be aligned with these strategies.

In their technology strategy work, the National Economic Development Committee and the sector working parties should pay particular attention to the "interfaces" between industrial sectors, the report says, and to potential industries that might be created by the combination of technologies from different sectors.

In recommending the fostering of new industries such as those based on information technology and biotechnology (industrial technology based on the exploitation of biological or renewable resources rather than mineral or non-renewable resources), the report also mentions industries with high growth potential arising from the increasing need to conserve energy and materials.

"We doubt the nation's ability to provide new technology at the rate required from its indigenous research and development resources", the council

states. "This potential shortfall can be overcome by a greater readiness to acquire already proven technology from abroad."

"The relatively small number of foreign licences taken by United Kingdom industry has been judged by some to indicate the excellence of British science and engineering. We regard it rather as evidence of a worrying complacency and parochialism amongst sections of British industry."

The council suggests setting up a new agency to encourage the import of technology. "We believe that there is much foreign technology which is not actively offered for sale but which could be purchased. Any agency appointed to undertake this task should be able to let research contracts for the evaluation of foreign technologies. The results would be offered to specific firms or generally to the relevant United Kingdom industry."

Because of the importance of new and small firms utilizing high technology as creators of new manufacturing employment opportunities, the report says, the Government should give greater attention to their technological base.

Specifically, the Department of Industry should consider measures that the Government might take to help small businesses to overcome obstacles arising from inadequate technological resources. Large companies holding research and development results that they do not wish to exploit commercially should be encouraged to set up or seek out companies better able to apply those results.

The impact of the oil price rise in November has led to a sharp upward revision in the estimate for the cost which industry pays for its raw materials and fuel.

The basic materials and fuels index in December, published by the Department of Industry yesterday, was 186.7, up about 41 per cent from the previous estimate for November. But department officials estimate that most of that large jump actually occurred in November, and has only just been recorded in the revised figures.

But at the same time, it is thought to have gone up by only about 1 per cent.

The latest figures mean that over the past six months industry has had to face input costs rising at a rate of 25 per cent. But at the same time, the cost of the goods it produces has risen by only 14.7 per cent, with output prices rising by only 4 per cent in November. Over the past year, however, prices have gone up 15 per cent.

The latest figures point to the possibility of a surge in output prices for January. Industry has faced a sharp squeeze on its margins in recent months. Labour costs have been rising rapidly and it is clear that, even with the benefit of a strong pound, input costs have raced ahead in recent months.

One factor which may have held down prices is the fact that demand has been flat in recent months. Retail sales have been going slowly and foreign competition has been intense. But it may be that companies have decided to postpone their latest round of price rises until January.

Most estimates suggest that the level of inflation in the shops will continue to rise throughout the spring, probably going above 20 per cent before it starts to decline in late summer.

The strong pound seems to have played some part in controlling the rise in input costs in December. A sharp fall in the price of oil, which was a major factor in the increase, has helped to bring down the cost of many raw materials.

By the end of the year, the cost of oil had fallen by 10 per cent, and the cost of many other raw materials had fallen by 5 per cent. This has helped to bring down the cost of many raw materials.

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Capital projects are next likely target for public spending cuts

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government's public spending axe is likely to fall harder on public investment than on current Government spending in the latest round of cuts.

Capital spending on, for example, houses, roads, hospitals, and schools is typically cut most severely when governments draw in their horns. It is easier to cancel plans for new investment than to cut into the current budget.

However, the practice of cutting into the public sector's investment has been strongly criticized in the past. The present Government has always shared the view that it is wrong to reduce capital spending just because it is easy.

But it seems likely that the Government's desperate search for more savings will lead it to cut investment programmes in the time-honoured fashion.

The Prime Minister said at the weekend that it would help if the Government could find £2,000m extra spending cuts to reduce government borrowing and leave room for tax cuts. It will be hard to find that kind of money by cutting current spending in 1980-81.

On Friday, the British group failed in an attempt to block the bid through an action in the American courts.

The offer would require the issue of just under 30 per cent of Marsh & McLennan's capital. With cash of around \$36m in

its last balance sheet the American group would also have to resort to borrowings for a large proportion of the \$277m cash element.

The Marsh bid would also be subject to approval from several authorities including the Bank of England, whose consent would be required for the American group to take over Bowring's merchant banking subsidiary, Singer & Friedlander.

A further hurdle is represented by the Committee of Lloyd's, which at present rules that no member firm can be controlled more than 20 per cent by an overseas group. Marsh has stated that it would abide by any ruling from the committee.

However, Marsh applies indirectly more than 20 per cent of the £2,000m a year of insurance business placed at Lloyd's and it is thought that the American group could put pressure on the market to bend its 20 per cent rule.

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Oil price rise inflates industrial input costs

By Our Economics Editor

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Marsh & McLennan offers £246m cash and shares for Bowring

By Richard Allen, Insurance Correspondent

C. T. Bowring, the insurance broker, has been asked to consider a £246m takeover bid from Marsh & McLennan of the United States, the world's biggest broker.

The American group disclosed yesterday that it was prepared to offer \$277.2m cash (about £123m) and an equivalent sum in its own shares.

Marsh has given the Bowring board seven days to respond to its proposals and is keeping its options open as to whether or not to pursue the bid if Bowring attempts to fight it.

If it goes ahead the Marsh takeover bid will represent the first offer for a British com-

pany by an overseas group involving the issue of shares since the abolition of exchange controls last autumn.

At current rates of exchange the bid would be worth around 168p for every Bowring share. 59p above the price when Marsh first announced it was considering a bid just before Christmas.

Bowring's shares yesterday jumped from 122p to 148p before easing back to 142p as stock market investors speculated on the likely response from Bowring.

So far Bowring's directors have been openly hostile to the approach from Marsh which came after the breakdown of 15 months of negotiations between the two groups on a premium pooling plan.

Dr Ebinger stressed that the United States could no longer brook delay on energy policy actions because of any partisan political squabbles. He asserted that most politicians have still not realized that the United States faces a certain oil supply shortage.

Last April President Carter proposed legislation to impose special taxes on oil company profits as a result of domestic oil prices being allowed to rise to world market levels. It would have aided conservation by forcing-up domestic prices and would have generated funds for Government energy programmes.

Congress failed to pass the legislation before the Christmas recess and such procrastination

illustrates the lack of urgency that still greets energy issues on Capitol Hill.

Prospects of severe oil shortages in industrial and domestic markets have increased dramatically, according to the centre's experts. Dr Ebinger stressed that one lesson from Opec's continuing price increases is that incentives to boost output are now diminishing.

He warned that, at best, Opec output in 1980 will be 1.4 million barrels per day below the current level of about 30.5 million. "The Opec cut could be far bigger," he said, as he noted that political problems could bring Iranian output to a halt and political disruption in Iraq and the United Arab Emirates are a constant possibility.

Moreover, Dr Ebinger said Saudi Arabia might well return to an output of 8.5 million barrels per day from its present

Hard times predicted for Inmos semiconductors

By Kenneth Owen, Technology Editor

For a new company to try to get into the semiconductor business was almost impossible, according to Mr William Davidow, a vice-president of Intel, the American microprocessor company.

Commenting in London yesterday on the prospects for the National Enterprise Board's Inmos semiconductor subsidiary, now awaiting government approval for a second tranche of £25m of NEB investment, Mr Davidow said that to enter a mature market was very difficult, and was "governed more by the laws of economics than by those of creativity."

As general manager of Intel's microcomputer systems division, Mr Davidow would be expected to stress the hard times ahead for any new competitor. But the arguments he puts forward for the hard times ahead of Inmos are worth recording.

In trying to break into the already highly competitive market for advanced microcomputer, and computer memory

products, where such companies as Intel, Texas Instruments, Motorola, National Semiconductor and Fairchild already well established, Inmos is banking to a large extent on its own brand of the new technology.

The technology is changing so rapidly, Inmos says, that there is now scope for newcomers to gain a place in the technology, as from valves to transistors and from transistors to large-scale integration microprocessors, that a new company can come in as an innovator in the market.

Intel agrees that the market is growing and that technology is changing. But Mr Davidow argues it is on when there is a complete change in the technology, as from valves to transistors and from transistors to large-scale integration microprocessors, that a new company can come in as an innovator in the market.

And, despite the expected growth of the market, all semiconductor companies are also developing products of

the type at which Inmos is aiming, of which the large-capacity computer memory known as a 64K random-access memory (RAM) is an example.

Once the new wage contracts

have been settled—the council of the United Auto Workers union will decide whether to move ahead to secure a variety of loans, which it must obtain if it is to take advantage of the Government's loan guarantees.

Under the legislation the company must strive to secure other financial support amounting to \$2,000m. The company will also strive to reduce some of its costs by forcing cuts in salaries for its executives.

Chrysler's future looks quite bleak, according to a new report issued here by Chase Econometrics Associates. The report predicts that United States car sales will be depressed this year, and that this will add to Chrysler's problems. It suggests Chrysler may have to close old factories.

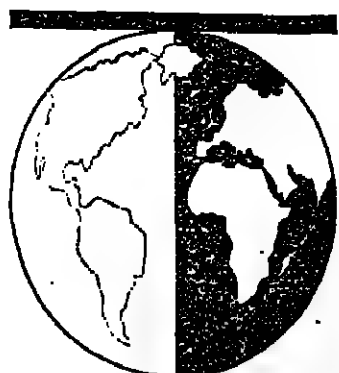


Mr William Davidow: difficult to enter a mature market.

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Slowdown forecast in Belgian economy

Brussels, Jan 7.—Belgium's economy is predicted to experience higher unemployment, rising inflation and increases in public spending for 1980.

The Central Economic Council, in its latest monthly newsletter, also foresees persistent troubles in public financing and a tightening of the money and capital market as well as deterioration in the country's balance of payments.

"For the coming year, one can expect a slowdown in economic expansion, even if this does not necessarily imply a fundamental reversal of the economic situation", the council said.

Norway expansion

A 4 per cent growth rate predicted for Norway this year by the nation's Export Council would be one of the best among western industrialized countries. Expansion will stem partly from rising output of North Sea oil and gas.

£21m cement plant

China has placed a \$100m (about £21m) order for a cement plant with Japan's Mitsubishi Group. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries said it would be built in China's Anhui province by 1984 and would be capable of producing 4,000 tonnes of cement a day.

Loans guaranteed

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has underwritten loans of £3m and SHK107m (about £12m) which Antony Gibbs Holdings, acting for a syndicate of banks, has made available to Cebu Pacific Airways for aeroplanes and spares.

Factory work-in ends

Italy's chemical workers' union FULC and management of the Montedison plant at Verbano, near Milan, have reached temporary agreement on manning levels, ending the factory's occupation by workers since December 3 in protest at proposed lay-offs.

EEC law 'could damage the interests of both consumer and producer'

CBI protests at strict liability plans

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Proposed EEC legislation to make manufacturers strictly liable for injury caused by defective products could be damaging to the interests of both consumers and producers, according to the Confederation of British Industry. The CBI wants the whole basis of the EEC directive, a revised draft of which was issued last year, to be reconsidered, to follow the latest lead set by the United States.

New American "model" legislation, produced last October by the United States Department of Commerce, holds manufacturers liable for product injuries only if it can be proved they are at fault. This rejects the concept of "liability irrespective of fault" on which the EEC bases its draft directive.

In a letter to Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Trade, the CBI says that, although the main practical objection to the draft directive is its treatment of "development risk", it has concluded "that the whole basis of the directive

needs to be rethought, paying particular attention to the United States experience".

One of the most important changes recommended by the Royal Commission on Civil Liability headed by Lord Pearson was that the burden of proof of negligence should be shifted from the consumer to the producer. This, it was claimed, would remove a formidable barrier to claims by consumers who are unlikely to have access to technical knowledge.

The American "model" legislation, drawn up for the guidance of individual states, would restore the concept of fault. It says that the function of product liability law is to shift the cost of an accident from a claimant to a defendant when the latter is deemed "responsible" for the claimant's injuries. "A product seller should not, through the medium of tort law, be asked to pay merely because its product caused an injury."

The CBI is concerned that the EEC Commission has rejected the recommendation of the European Parliament that a producer should not be liable if he can prove that the product was not defective in the light of scientific and technological

development at the time that it was put into circulation.

Mr Bryan Rigby, deputy director general, has told Mrs Oppenheim that the CBI considers it wrong in principle that producers should be made liable for something over which they have no control. This is "to import social policy on compensation into the law of liability in a very dangerous way" and is considered likely to be damaging in practice to the interests of both consumers and producers, particularly small producers.

Although the EEC commission decided against the "state of the art" defence as recommended by the European Parliament, it did incorporate a number of changes in its revised draft. These include explicit provision for contributory negligence by the injured person to be taken into account.

Other changes are the exclusion of primary agricultural products from strict liability (as recommended by the Scottish Law Commission but not by the Law Commission for England and Wales) and the exclusion of craft and artistic products which are not made by an industrial process.

Ocean in lighterage takeover

By Richard Evans

Ocean Transport and Trading has taken over Thames and General Lighterage to become the largest lighterage operator on the River Thames.

Ocean, through its companies Mercantile Lighterage and Cory Lighterage, in which Thames and General has been incorporated, expects to handle more than 1,250,000 tons of river cargo this year.

Thirty employees—mainly office staff—formerly employed by Thames and General have been made redundant following the takeover and 70 lighterage men are being returned to the National Dock Labour Board pool.

Thames and General had been handling about 550,000 tons of cargo a year, following losses in the declining industry, takeover talks started last year.

Ocean's total number of craft under the two river companies has increased to 600 lighterage and 30 tugs. It has also acquired the New Caledonia Wharf and Brimley Barge Works.

Mr John Bowers, general manager of Ocean's port and coastal unit, said yesterday the takeover would make possible a strong cost-effective lighterage force on the Thames and associated canal systems.

"The takeover will preserve for the Port of London and those employed on the river the cargoes which are now carried by Thames and General and so provide existing and new customers with an economic alternative to road and rail transport for the movement of goods in the London area."

Design service aids innovations

Innovations in toolmaking, electronic fruit machines, green-house ventilation, breastmilkers, drilling and tube bending are among the projects in which companies have been assisted by the Design Council's Design Advisory Service. These examples are among 30 on display at the Design Centre, London, from tomorrow until February 15.

They give a guide to the ways in which the Council's regional advisory officers can help companies solve design problems—often from experience or by identifying sources of help such as universities, research establishments, design consultancies and industrial companies.

In a double-coal-to-Newcastle exercise, JPM (Automatic Machines) of Cardiff has exported its microelectronic fruit machines to the United States, acknowledged home of both microelectronics and fruit machines. The Design Advisory Service helped the company to move from electro-mechanical to electronic machines.

Also microprocessor-controlled is a new three-axis tube bender developed by Hilmor of Stevenage. Used in aero space, shipbuilding, furniture manufacture and other industries, the machine can be simply reprogrammed on site from one sequence (for up to 30 tubes, each with up to 10 bends) to another.

This was the result of a combined effort by Hilmor engineers and consultants recommended by the Design Advisory Service.

A significant advance in tooling is illustrated by the in-

Technology News

and expensive to make. The Design Council advisers helped the company to improve both the design and the methods of production.

A major development in metal-cutting is the "Speed-Feed" drill developed by Sandvik UK to replace the twist drill. "Speed-Feed" applies a carbide tip, a very hard cutting edge, high-speed drilling.

Problems arose in clearing the Bore drill and in keeping the tip cool. These were overcome with a drill tube which has a compressed figure-eight cross-section. The twin internal ducts supply cooling fluid, and the debris is washed away along the twin external flutes.

The result is a drill that can bore small-diameter holes up to five times faster than conventional twist drills.

Roll-forming the special tube proved difficult and expensive; at the suggestion of the Design Advisory Service the company adopted drawing (pulling) a round tube through a shaped die as the production method.

Lion Laboratories' Auto-Alcoholmeter gives the level of alcohol in the blood more accurately than roadside breathalysers and more immediately than laboratory blood tests. It uses a fuel cell sensor which oxidises alcohol in the breath, generating a current which is electronically converted to a precise reading of alcohol level.

On this project the Design Council's contribution was in the joint development of the electronics, and in the commissioning of a consultant industrial designer.

Kenneth Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How Operation Rose secrecy was inadvertently breached

From T. F. Brencley

Sir, I well remember Ernie Bevin's insistence on a whiter loaf to accompany devaluation, since it led to a minor breach in the otherwise admirable security arrangements.

I was then a Second Secretary in the Economic Relations Department of the Foreign Office. We juniors were excluded from the "Rose" secret, but we were near enough to the action to realise that something unusual was in progress. One clue was that our Head of Department, Oscar Morland, was frequently incommunicado (rumour had it that he was personally cyphering and deciphering telegrams

hardly a normal task for one so senior).

Perhaps from some insight because exchange control was one of my subjects, devaluation was among my guesses as to what might be afoot, but I could not be certain. Not, that is, until there arrived on my desk a copy of a telegram from Bevin to Attlee recommending linking a higher bread price to a whiter loaf.

By some mischance, it had evaded all the Operation Rose security precautions and had been sent from Washington on a plain, undeciphered, failing to realise its significance, the telegram supervisor had given it

Departmental Distribution to all members of Economic Relations Department. Our eyes were opened. Higher bread price—costlier North American wheat—higher dollar exchange rate—devaluation: all was plain. Being government servants, we did not ring up our watch-brokers and make a killing. Instead we arranged for the FO's "action copy" of the telegram to be put quietly away in the archives. There it presently still lies, now no doubt open to be read at Kew. Yours faithfully, T. F. BRENCLEY, Travellers' Club, London, SW1.

Reduced welfare spending is a political red herring

From Mr Graham Cleverley

Sir, At her election, one welcomed Mrs Thatcher's commitment to reduce government spending: but not necessarily one did so with some scepticism. Power does not necessarily corrupt, but it does breed a desire for more and a determination not to give it up.

Yet government can only cost the country less if it gives up power. Reducing welfare spending is a red herring: in so doing Mrs Thatcher is only giving back to the community rather less of what she is taking from them in the first place. Relative levels of welfare spending are a proper matter for political dispute, but they have nothing to do with the cost of government.

Nor have they anything to do with the comfort of government—the appointed branches of it. It hurts no one except the recipients (and perhaps the consciences of the donors, the taxpayers) if welfare payments are cut. But if the government gives up power (as it must if the amount of it is to be significantly reduced), if it effectively loses power (as it must if it is to be carried out more cheaply), then the governments themselves are hurt.

And, frankly, Mrs Thatcher has so far shown little inclination to inflict those necessary cuts on herself or her colleagues and the civil servants who, constitutionally speaking, execute their policies.

For instance, her list of ministerial appointments is not noticeably shorter than that of recent governments: it is longer than some I remember. But there are a number of more fundamental current issues where one's scepticisms seem to have been justified.

There can be no doubt whatsoever that the recent actions of the European Parliament

have been in the best interests of the British taxpayer. Yet the British Government opposed the Parliament's action—explicitly (if I understand Mr Lawson aright) because it threatened the government's powers. If Mrs Thatcher truly has her election promises at heart (and if she does not mind someone getting the credit for reducing welfare spending) she should unhesitatingly announce her support for the Parliament's views.

That VAT as it stands is a ridiculous and horrendous system, efficient or otherwise, is equally self-evident. In view of the EEC directives, Mrs Thatcher is perhaps not in a position to take immediate unilateral action, but if she is sincerely interested in reducing welfare expenditure, then she should undoubtedly announce her intention to work for its removal, either on a Community-wide or a local basis, and its replacement by a sensible system of taxing either turnover or added value. (I suspect she would get European Parliamentary support for that, too.)

Unlike VAT income tax is not a nonsense at birth (though the imputation system of corporation tax is of course). But compared to other countries (notably the United States) it is certainly clumsy and inefficiently administered, and the department's readiness to flout constitutional convention is as evident as its liking for flagging dead horses. It would be nice, for instance, to think that those responsible for pushing *Newstead v Frost* to its ultimate shambled conclusion have been suitably reprimanded, but it is doubtful if there is a chance that they will wear the handgloves expressions that the verdict should have permanently engraved on their faces. Yet Mrs Thatcher has (apparently) agreed that no reform is possible.

Until after the present system is computerized. Any but the most complete services to computing would recognize the fallacy: the fundamental and essential principle of implementing any computer application is that first you rationalize, then you computerize.

As it stands, therefore, the vast amounts that are about to be spent (and could still be saved) on computerization are, at best, going to be a complete waste. At the worst they will result in the perpetuation of the present system into the twenty-first century, either way Mrs Thatcher will have made her priorities plain.

There are other areas—immigration control, health administration, welfare payment supervision—where the Government's commitment to govern less, or even to abolish it, is more than suspect. There are some—the NEB and nationalized industries—where the issues have yet to be faced. But the Government's present record gives one little hope that it will reduce—or even recognize—waste.

For the moment, the majority of them either have Thatcher, and the union memberships who have recently been giving her the benefit of the doubt, are presumably waiting and seeing. The vast majority of them either have benefited or are benefiting or know they will one day need to benefit from welfare payments or services. To few of them are reductions in these payments or services "savings". But if that is the only way in which Mrs Thatcher finds that she can significantly "save" money, her ultimate rejection of her is certain to be crushing.

Yours etc, GRAHAM CLEVERLEY, Southampton SO1 2AD.

New safety proposals for home workers

The banning of certain potentially dangerous substances, including asbestos, is contained in new Health and Safety Commission proposals for home workers.

Radioactive substances, unsealed mercury, and asbestos which could give rise to dusts are among materials which would require special permission for use in home work. So too would a number of other chemicals and large quantities of highly flammable liquids. The Commission's proposals, published yesterday, are for new regulations aimed at controlling risk from materials or equipment provided for home workers. Those would replace an outdated section of the Factories Act under which legislation dating back to 1911.

Provisions designed to prevent home work being undertaken in unhygienic conditions have become redundant as infectious diseases associated with such conditions are now largely under control; and views on precautions have changed.

According to the commission, the risks to which home workers may be subjected arise now much more from the actual processes undertaken. It is proposed that companies or individuals putting out such work should send information to their local inspector twice a year about the nature of the work and the materials or equipment used.

It is not intended that routine inspections should be made of outworkers' homes. Comments on the proposals are asked for by June 30. Replies to a Commission document *Work in Domestic Premises*, issued in June, 1976 were taken into account in formulating the new proposals.

Tunisia airline signs contract for A300 airbus

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Tunis Air, the national airline of Tunisia, has signed a contract with Airbus Industrie (AI), the European consortium producing the A300 and A310 airbuses, for one A300 with an option on another for use on its network to Europe and the Middle East.

The contract was signed in Tunis by Mr Ismail Khelil, president of Tunis Air, and Mr Roger Bezele, executive vice-president and general manager of AI.

The order brings the total number logged by the European consortium, in which Britain is a 20 per cent partner, to 398 (255 firm and 143 options) for 32 customers.

Cheap loans to bank staffs

From Mr R. H. C. Gregory

Sir, In his letter the Reverend John Vaughan expresses concern at the practice of the major banks of granting low interest rate housing loans to their staffs. I fully accept that the rates of interest on such loans granted by the banks are very low, but surely this practice is not really so serious or harmful as your correspondent claims. In fact I would have thought that it is of use in that the staff who receive such loans do not have to borrow money from building societies whose resources are already stretched to the limit.

It might interest the Reverend Vaughan to learn that the conditions and qualifications for the loans which are granted are sufficient to ensure that only a limited number of staff do actually borrow in this way. Surely the total sum borrowed at such preferential rates is but a drop in the ocean when compared with the total borrowed by members of the general public.

Yours sincerely, R. H. C. GREGORY, 68 Tudor Road, New Barnet, Herts. EN5 5NP.

Liability for drug injury

From the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Sir, In his letter on the EEC Draft Directive on Product Liability (December 20) Mr Tietz asked whether the cost of the proposed added protection of the individual was a reasonable price to pay for the safety of medicine. The amount of information given depends upon a clinical judgement of each particular patient.

If we agree that any patient should be compensated, who can show that damage has been caused by a medicine, the EEC proposals are, in principle, a reasonable price to pay for the safety of medicine. The amount of information given depends upon a clinical judgement of each particular patient.

If we agree that any patient should be compensated, who can show that damage has been caused by a medicine, the EEC proposals are, in principle, a reasonable price to pay for the safety of medicine. The amount of information given depends upon a clinical judgement of each particular patient.

Yours faithfully, DAVID SHARPE, President, The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth Hill Street, London, SE1 7JN.

A solution to productivity dislocation

From Dr J. J. Richardson

Sir, Your correspondent Mr Bertram White (November 26) asks how we can deal effectively and humanely with short-term dislocations of rising productivity. One possible solution is not to revive the British Productivity Council but, dare I suggest, to create a new Quango—the Productivity Board.

The new board would have the familiar tripartite structure and would be given the task of funding a reduction in manning levels, which would result in increased productivity. The board would be financed by a proportion of North Sea oil revenues, would scrutinize applications from companies (and public sector bodies) who wanted to reduce manning levels and would award appropriate compensation to workers who were made

redundant as a result of the schemes. Unions at present rightly defend the interests of their existing members (why else do we join a trade union?) and therefore resist redundancies. Evidence suggests that certain workers (eg those over 50) are quite prepared to accept redundancy if the financial incentives are sufficient. The golden handshake is often used to ease out executives, without too much difficulty.

The difficulty in applying the principle of the golden handshake to larger groups of workers is that the cost is too high. At present we are in a "productivity trap". Productivity is too low, therefore profits and investment are too low, therefore companies can't "bribe" workers to leave in order to increase productivity

and therefore profits, investment, etc. Even universities could further increase their "bribe" by a few more people to leave!

What better use of some of the North Sea oil revenues than to facilitate increased productivity through reduced manning levels? Not all public expenditure is bad and, over a decade or so, would have used the money for all opportunity provided by North Sea oil to achieve productivity levels comparable to our competitors. We would solve what is perhaps the central problem in the United Kingdom today. Yours faithfully, J. J. RICHARDSON, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG. December 17.

Wheat price up from £28 to £98 since 1964

From Mr R. E. Brown

Sir, I read with even more alarm the letter from Mr Jeremy Mitchell (December 24, 1979). In 1964 I purchased a new Ford car which cost me £1,050. For the wheat I sold in that year I received £28 per ton. The same size car made by the same company today is over £8,000. For the wheat

which I am selling now I am receiving £98 per ton.

Can Mr Mitchell explain this in terms of manufacturing industry "demanding increasing" in price without any regard to the likely effect on the market for its products? All I know is that I have to produce twice as much wheat to buy the same sort of car which I purchased in 1964. The same

applies, of course, to tractors, combine harvesters and all other farm machinery. Perhaps that is why the farm machine makers are not doing too well. Yours faithfully, ROBERT BROWN, Bury Farm, Stifford, Herts, SG5 4NU. December 25, 1979.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Hugh Stephenson

The argument about building society funds

Building Societies will be in the spotlight again over the coming weeks. Next week the Building Societies Association will unveil the results of the inquiry it launched into the possibility of improving the flow of house purchase funds—this will be followed at some stage this spring by the results of a similar inquiry set up last November by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

For good measure there is a new Bow Group pamphlet which says that both the fairest and most efficient way of channeling money into house purchase would be for a rationalization of the monetary intermediation process in this country i.e. the absorption of the building societies into the mainstream banking system.

There are always going to be those who cannot find the house they want, those who cannot afford the house they want (or these days even the one they already have), and those who simply cannot afford a house at all. How much can be done to improve the situation on the supply side of the housing market, either in terms of greater land availability or more cost effective building, is an open question. But the answer is probably not a great deal, at least in the short term.

The more pertinent question, then, is what if anything, can, or should be, done about the flow of money into the housing market. More particularly, should the building societies attempt to clear the market by allowing rates to rise still further if necessary? Unfortunately, the answer is not simple.

Apart from the fact that one would first have to accept that one was simply switching frustration from one group of borrowers to another, one would run into a host of other considerations, not least that of the tax position of the building societies.

That is not to say that the issue should be ducked. The Bow Group pamphlet argues that rid of the composite tax rate system the societies would at last be forced to tap the wholesale markets in a big way—in other words enable them greatly to increase the flow of funds at an increase in cost that would be small in relation to the cost increase needed to obtain a similar flow of funds under the present tax-cushioned retail system.

Whatever the system, however, one would still have to find a solution to the problem of interest rate volatility, and I suspect that even in a fully integrated banking/building society system, banks and government lending priorities would, from time to time, not be precisely the same as the priorities that a truly free market might be wanting.

Globe

An imaginative route

Even after the contraction of the sector following a spate of takeovers, there are few signs of investment trusts becoming more attractive with the discounts on asset value as wide as ever. Instead it is beginning to look as though some of the more imaginative trusts are trying another route which involves them moving into other areas of asset management.

In a move that has some parallels with Rothschild Investment Trust's bid for Daway Day, Globe Investment Trust has made an agreed £14m bid for the West of England Trust which provides it with a stake in unit trusts and life assurance. Through its interest in Electra Investment, Globe has had a stake in West of England for some time and its full bid has no doubt been hastened along by the interest Britannia Arrow has recently been showing in West of England.

The demise of the closed end investment trust has long been a discussion point in the sector and for a trust with Globe's entrepreneurial flair (not to mention Electra's well publicised interest in small companies) there are clear attractions in having opened funds under management since this provides the room to buy into special situations without having to wait until funds are available on selling off other interests.

Meanwhile the ending of fixed management charges has made the unit trust movement more attractive and for a group of Electra's size there are clearly plenty of economies of scale to be had.

Despite the problems of valuing the convertible Globe is using for the takeover, the

terms of the offer value West of England at around 90p against the share price of 76p. The pity is that there are few other unit trust groups of a size that could appeal to other investment trusts looking for this way out of their predicament.

It has been obvious for some time that the price/earnings ratio based on historic cost earnings is, as a method of evaluating shares, rather worse than useless. Current cost accounting is going to require a new approach: but while current cost cover on the dividend as a method of measuring a share's worth is both safe and intellectually respectable, there is a major problem in applying it to those companies which have no current cost earnings.

History suggests that the temptation to write off those companies which are all assets and no income has to be resisted.

The method of valuation now devised by stockbrokers de Zoete & Bevan seeks to get around this dilemma by combining both a view on the current cost return on assets to be expected by a reasonable investor, and an expectation of the effects of inflation on the value of those assets, to produce a "standard share price", against which the actual price of the shares will show a greater or lesser discount.

The net effect is to attribute a value, even to the shares of those companies where there are no current cost earnings; though in this case it is a value based largely on the capacity of those assets to produce cash flow which, in the opinion of the brokers, ought to be distributed to shareholders unless the company is able to invest it to produce a rate of return greater than that for which the reasonable investor might hope.

In addition to their "standard price", the brokers have formulated a "limit price" likewise linked to return on assets, which is designed to limit the risks implicit in a formula which relies on two bases. The net effect is to produce a mechanical system for weighing up the price of one share against another or against the lot. What it will not do is weigh up the virtues of one against another. That, as always, is a matter of caveat emptor.

Bowring

Marsh takes the initiative

After Bowring's failure to beat off Marsh & McLennan's takeover ambitions in the United States courts, the American group has decided to pile on the pressure. By giving Bowring shareholders a view of the sort of deal which could be on offer, whether or not the Bowring board surrenders, Marsh & McLennan has gained an important initiative.

A share and cash offer of 168p would represent a full price for Bowring representing an exit p/e ratio of over 12 assuming full-year profits of around £36m against a sector average of under 8. Marsh, of course, also hopes Bowring shareholders will be mindful of the downside risk should the offer fail with the British group facing the possible withdrawal of Marsh business, which could amount to almost a fifth of its total.

Whatever the outcome the American invasion is still a long way from the beach, however. And the shares which closed at 142p last night are clearly reflecting the doubts.

Although dilution would be fairly small—Marsh sells on around 11 times latest earnings—by offering just under 30 per cent of its equity and \$277m cash the American group would be taking a mighty leap.

It would also have to contend with the problem of approvals concerning ownership of Bowring's merchant-banking subsidiary Singer & Friedlander, possible Monopolies intervention and perhaps most significantly the problem of Lloyd's rules on foreign ownership.

Marsh has always stated it would accede to Lloyd's wishes and the case, if the case, a buyer would have to be found for 75 per cent of Bowring's Lloyd's interests. That is, of course, unless Marsh, as the biggest purveyor of United States business to the Lloyd's market, decided to use its muscle to persuade the exchange to think again on the "20 per cent rule".

Clearly it is not only Bowring which is facing the crunch but Lloyd's itself and much of the British broking community.

Some time later this month, on present plans, the House of Commons will take the report stage of the Companies Bill. As a general rule, companies legislation has all the sex appeal of a bowl of cold custard. It is, therefore, probable that the average man in the street has not noticed that, at long last, a major change in the nature of the limited company is slipping peacefully on to the statute book.

This is not a reference to the creation of a criminal offence of "insider trading" in securities. There has been much huffing and puffing over insider trading over the years. It is notable mainly for the fact that this is one area of regulation where the City's establishment has come more or less willingly to the conclusion that self-regulation is insufficient and that the long arm of the law must be invoked.

In the form that has emerged from the committee stage the Secretary of State for Trade will have powers to appoint inspectors to investigate prima facie cases where those with inside knowledge have bought and sold shares. They in turn will have in effect powers of subpoena over persons and documents.

It remains to be seen what difference this change in the law makes in practice. The proposals for the criminal offence have been much tightened in scope and application since they appeared in their original form in the 1978 Labour Companies Bill, which fell with the General Election. There still remains, however, one major area where what is being proposed is so grey that most cannot see their way.

The basic offence is one of dealing in shares to your own advantage when you are in the possession of information about a company which is not generally available and which might affect that company's share price one way or the other. The problem relates to all directors and senior executives.

Unless they are gaga, most directors and most senior executives are most of the time in a position to judge whether the shares of their own company are being overvalued or undervalued by the market. It is, after all, their job to know more about their own company than is generally available.

This whole area can really only be contained, if it is felt necessary to contain it, by going the whole hog and saying that such people may deal in the shares of their own companies only during very limited periods immediately after the publication of major performance figures. This is indeed the thought behind the Stock Exchange's own code of conduct for this area.

Even then, a director should still know more than most about what lies behind published figures and the area remains grey. For what this whole subject is worth, I should be prepared to take a bet that there will not be more than half a dozen successful prosecutions for insider trading under the new legislation in the next decade.

The really interesting and slow-burning fuse inside the Companies Bill, however, is not concerned with insider trading, but with the duties of

directors to their employees. In contrast to the eight pages on insider dealing, this more important aspect of the Bill is confined to a single clause, 46.

It has had a long history. The 1973 Conservative Companies Bill, introduced by Mr Peter Walker, contained a single sentence clause which would have established that "the matters to which the directors of a company are entitled to have regard in exercising their powers shall include the interests of the company's employees generally as well as the interests of its members (i.e. shareholders)".

Mr Dell's 1978 Labour Companies Bill took up where Mr Walker left off. It incorporated the above clause verbatim and then added a sub-clause (2), which said that where a court had to decide whether a director was in breach of his duties towards shareholders it should also take into account the new statutory requirement to have regard to the interests of employees as well.

Another General Election stopped that getting to the statute book and so it now looks as if it will fall to Mr Nott to get the clause past the post. In the interim, however, it has taken on an even more substantial form.

The first part of the relevant clause remains from the Walker version. The sub-clause (2), however, is now much strengthened. It states baldly that the duty on directors to employees "is owed by them to the company (and the company alone) and is enforceable in the same way as any other fiduciary

duty owed to a company by its directors." In other words, if this clause now eventually reaches the statute book, the board of a company will have in law the same trustee-like duties to employees as it has to shareholders.

In addition, the Bill would finally reverse the celebrated ruling in the 1962 case, *Parke v Daily News Ltd.*, where Mr Justice Plovan found that the £2m from the sale of *The News Chronicle* and *The Star* belonged entirely to the shareholders and could not be used to pay for employees' redundancy and loss of pension rights. The Bill would allow such provisions for employees in future, even if it was not in other respects in the best interests of the company.

Taken together, these two provisions would entrench in company law the reality of "best practice". For, as a matter of fact, most companies take into account the interests of their employees, even though existing law requires a director only to consider his duty to the shareholders.

The change is, however, still important. When it was first being considered, much thought was given to the question of what a director should do if he concluded that his duty to his employees was in conflict with his duty to his shareholders. The problem is not academic, particularly when redundancy programmes or takeovers are on the agenda. The new legislation will be placing two kinds of duties on directors. They will not always be reconcilable. It is a fundamental change in the legal basis of the company.

Fares could rise sharply, but with little benefit to profits

Fuel costs: how will the airlines cope?

World airlines are budgeting for big increases in fuel prices during 1980, which could by the end of the year have wide-ranging effects on their business.

Most are expecting the price which they pay for kerosene to rise to about \$1.10 an American gallon during the coming 12 months and fuel to represent 30 per cent of total operating costs.

This price compares with 67.3 cents a gallon paid only a few weeks ago, which itself was 50 per cent up on the 45 cents being paid on average a year before.

According to the authoritative United States aviation journal *Air Transport World*, the total airline industry fuel bill for 1979 was \$20,000m.

Kerosene supply sources in London speculate that there could be "leap-frogging" in charges by the producing nations between the recent inconclusive meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Caracas and the scheduled meeting in Algiers in May.

Availability is a further worry for the airlines. The London sources said that although at present stocks are reasonable, with Iran producing again, yet the balance between supply and demand is finely poised.

Of each barrel of crude oil of 42 United States gallons, aviation takes some 6 per cent, motor cars 43 per cent, fuel and diesel oil users 22 per cent and most of the rest is turned into such products as lubricants and asphalt.

Airline industry leaders are worried that their sector will be given a low priority for supplies if crude becomes more scarce as 1980 progresses and oil for home heating, agriculture and mass transport is given the lion's share by government agencies throughout the world.

Faced with soaring costs and scarcities throughout 1979, the airlines have already explored a number of ways of reducing the use of kerosene.

They have told their flight crews to operate their airliners more economically, keeping rigidly to prescribed flight paths, and not to use all the engines, if two will do when three are available.

They have "cleaned up" the outside of the aircraft to reduce drag. They have reduced the



Early morning refuelling at Stansted: big economies in the use of fuel are already being made.

frequency of flights on routes which are not strongly patronised or have even cancelled them.

And they use a complicated logistics operation to "tanker" fuel around the world to avoid particular airports where it is scarce and expensive.

Some airlines have gone as far as to set up special departments whose only job is to seek out, recommend and implement ways of saving jet fuel.

The search for economies is benefiting the aircraft and aircraft engine manufacturers. All of these had a bumper year in 1979 and expect the pattern to be repeated this year as airlines scramble for the economies which are to be had from the new generation of high-technology engines using up to 30 per cent less fuel than their predecessors.

The market for fitting new-technology engines, such as the American-French CPM-56, into existing airliners such as Boeing 707s and DC-8s, in place of the "gas guzzlers" which drive them now, is also being stimulated.

Yet, at the same time as they are taking these housekeeping

measures, the airlines are under increasing pressure to fly more routes miles as greater numbers of passengers are attracted to them by the promise of cheap fares and package deals, particularly between Europe and the United States.

Last year was a boom period for tourism to America and, with the dollar showing few signs of strengthening, the airlines expect the pattern to be repeated in 1980.

One stock exchange analyst in the United States predicts, however, that the impact of increased fuel prices on the airlines between the third quarter of last year and the end of the second quarter of this will force them to raise their fares by 17 per cent. Such a rise would mark the end of

the cheap-fare boom, but it would also serve to help airlines profitability.

Most airlines are expected to report big losses for the fourth quarter of last year, although they put their fares up. Pan Am's third-quarter earnings were down 40 per cent compared with the same period of 1978. Trans World's down 60 per cent, Delta's down 61 per cent, Eastern's down 85 per cent and American's down 97 per cent.

According to an *Air Transport World* survey, airlines reported that the costs for fuel were rising by anything from 20 per cent to 130 per cent last year and they expected further increases in 1980. To take a few examples, Air-India is paying \$1.04 a gallon now

and expects to pay \$1.30 by the end of the year. British Caledonian 85 cents (96 cents), Britannia 98.6 cents (\$1.20), Lufthansa 95.4 cents (\$1.40), Olympic 96.4 cents (\$1.40) and Tradewinds, the British cargo airline, 95 cents (\$1.20).

The magazine asked airlines what they are doing to try to hold back the surge in fuel costs. Among the worthy answers was one lighthearted one—"Trying to marry a Saudi Arabian sheikh's daughter". But Saudia, the national airline of that oil-rich country, told the magazine that it was paying 93 cents a gallon for fuel at present and expected the figure to be \$1.21 by the end of the year.

Arthur Reed

Hard questions on the EMS

Peter Norman

The European Monetary System has found few friends in ten months or so of existence.

Britain shows no signs of joining the scheme's exchange rate regime and the EMS has virtually disappeared from the political vocabulary of the two prime movers behind it, Herr Schmidt and the West German Chancellor, and President Giscard d'Estaing of France.

The system has come in for growing criticism in both Germany and France. The Bonn government's influential Council of Economic Advisors says that it has seriously damaged the ability of the Federal Bank to maintain a realistic Deutsche mark exchange rate and thus reduced the bank's armoury in the fight against inflation.

The Federal Bank has made little effort to conceal its distaste for the system.

In France the EMS has been assailed in the National Assembly by the powerful figure of M Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullists. In fact, the only real enthusiasts for the system in the European Community are the Belgians and the Commission itself.

So this looks a singularly inopportune time to contemplate the further political initiatives needed to give the EMS a permanent status and create the proposed European Monetary Fund.

But at the last EEC summit in Dublin the heads of government of the Nine responded to a Belgian initiative and reaffirmed their intention to set up the fund as planned within two years from the start of the system last March. The Commission was asked to report at the next European Council in March on the progress made and any difficulties encountered.

What the leaders of the Nine probably did not realize as they debated frantically with the EMS in a council meeting almost entirely to Britain's EEC budget problem was that the time for political decision-making on the system is drawing close. As the second stage will require national legislation in most countries, the decisions

neither fully convertible into other reserve assets nor fully acceptable to a legal tender between central banks.

The final nature of the fund will therefore partly depend on what sort of unit emerges at the end of the transitional period of the EMS.

The other key issue is how far central banks and national governments will go in ceding power to the new body.

Various models have been worked out for the fund. At one level it could one day develop into a European central bank, which would leave to national governments medium-term financial help for EMS members and concentrate on coordinating monetary and exchange rate policies. Another idea is for a regional "IMF" which would leave to central banks, short-term financial help as at present, but take over the Treasury role of determining medium-term assistance and its associated conditions.

What would be a hybrid that would acquire some of the powers at present exercised by governments and central banks, have a managing board to handle day-to-day operations and a supervisory board comprising finance ministers and central bank governors to deal with major issues such as a change in the composition of the ECU basket, the central rates of the exchange rate mechanism and the granting of medium-term credits.

When the EEC's finance ministers reviewed progress towards the second stage of the EMS at their meeting in December it was agreed that the work to date had thrown up more questions than answers. But, if the timetable confirmed at Dublin is to be met, answers will have to be found soon.

Given the present general unpopularity of the EMS and the wide divergence of economic performance between the various member states, it would probably be wrong to expect dramatic initiatives. But the issue of the European Monetary Fund should provide plenty of scope for wrangling from March onwards.

Business Diary: Outside edge • BL and buying British

Being a non-executive outside director of an American company can be rewarding these days, even at a time of White House calls for pay restraint. The happy breed is keeping ahead of inflation.

The New York Conference Board, an economic research group, has just completed a survey of 1,006 companies which shows that the average pay of outside directors rose in the last two years by \$2,200 to \$11,500 (about £5,130) among manufacturing companies and by \$2,000 to \$9,000 among non-manufacturing groups. (President Carter, it will be recalled, asked for pay rise limits of 7 per cent).

The remuneration is naturally larger in the nation's biggest companies, those with annual sales of more than \$3,000m.

Here the pay given to outside directors of manufacturing companies has increased in the last two years by \$2,900 on average to \$20,400, while at large non-manufacturing groups the gain was \$1,000 to an average of \$16,500. On average, the Conference Board adds, directors of large companies meet about ten times each year.

It will hardly be as a surprise that all companies pay the most on average to their outside directors—now \$18,000.

As well as making a flat sum payment most companies also give a fee for each board meeting attended. And nearly 90 per cent of the companies surveyed pay an additional sum for service by non-executive directors on various board committees.

It may come as rather more of a surprise that the worst payers are the banks, with payers at \$8,000 a year—up from \$6,300.

Bill Jordan, Midlands divisional organizer of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, is backing the controversial £2m "Buy British" campaign of Sir Michael Edwards, BL's chairman. Jordan says that as BL's car builders now access new structures, new models and new standards, British car buyers should reciprocate by no longer buying foreign makes and "importing unemployment".

Jordan, who is also president of the West Midlands Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions, says that newspapers and television are too busy cashing in on the easy mileage of Britain's industrial relations to show the real cost of buying foreign cars.

He says "We have about 1.3 million unemployed, the cost to the taxpayer is estimated at about £3,000 each person, this

being what they receive, plus what they should be contributing, plus the cost of service and social security and so on. The final cost becomes a staggering £3,900m a year.

"So those contemplating buying a foreign car I would advise to not the share of that amount as a taxpayer to the misleading price on their glossy Japanese car."

As for the Jordan view, however, negotiations to change the working practices which have blighted BL factories for the past 25 years have just broken down after three months' talking. Union negotiators will be reporting this to senior shop stewards in Coventry on Thursday—and the militants will undoubtedly call for a strike.

If they carry the day it will be a double blow for Sir Michael. It will leave him short of cars in the middle of a costly sales campaign and further fuel the anti-BL worker feeling.

Does the Group of Eight, the consortium of industry lobby, need a firmer foundation? Last summer the "eight" became "seven" when the general secretary of the 348,000 strong Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, walked out, mainly over government hostility towards direct labour organizations.

The remaining union, the Transport and General workers' representative is George Henderson, is also finding it difficult to chat amicably to Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The group has only now, after more than eight weeks, agreed on its response to the Government's White Paper on public spending. This is contained in a letter sent to Heseltine this week. It is thought that some members of the group—especially those from the hard-pressed Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors and from the T and G—wanted a tougher document.

A spokesman for the group, which is serviced by staff from the Royal Institute of British Architects, said that while there had been a diversity of opinion among the seven, there had been no serious dissension.

The group is now applying its collective efforts to influencing the Government's thinking on medium-term spending, the subject of a further White Paper, probably in March.

Cecil Parkinson must sometimes feel like the little Dutch boy plugging the hole in the dam with his finger. As the Minister of State for Trade, he

is responsible for ensuring that the remains of the British textile industry is not swept away by cheap imports. Import controls already cover most things as diverse as Brazilian brasieres and animal hair yarns. But no sooner is one gap plugged than another opens and the trickle of imports becomes a flood. In the first nine months of last year, for example, imports of woven shirts from the Philippines rose by 2,625 per cent.

Parkinson is now blocking "Sheffield" imports from Mauritius. In 1976 Britain took up 4.2 million pieces of cloth in the next two years.

At first, industry sceptics suspected that the knifwear was being transhipped via Mauritius illegally, but now it is accepted that capacity there has, indeed, expanded rapidly.

How does it happen that the American Embassy's London Gin is distilled in Linden, New Jersey? Answer: by importing their Gordons from a Distillers Company Limited plant in the United States, rather than buying it here the American diplomats get their supplies free of the duty. Tanqueray, Gordon imports it for them in little drums and bottles it here once or twice a year.

Ross Davies



"We're leaving the hall. The gardener's agreed to sell me his council house for £50 more than it cost him."

Stock Exchange Prices

Firmer tone

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Dec 28. Dealings End, Jan 11. § Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

PERSONAL CHOICE



A scene from *Birth of a Nation* which is featured in the Thames TV series *Hollywood* (9.00 pm)

● **Flesh and Blood** (BBC 1, 9.25), John Finch's 10-part drama series about a Yorkshire family, might not develop into a homegrown Dallas, but the first episode looks very much as if that is what is going to happen. Like it or not, all the signs are there. Powerful Dad (Bill Fraser, as the head of the cement company), tough old Grandma (Thora Hird), ambitious son (John Stone), sensitive daughter (Dorothy White), needing, sexy daughter-in-law (Ann Firbank), junior black sheep (Richard Willis). And there is still another son to come in episode 2—Michael, a young man who seems certain to become involved with his other brother in a tussle over who should take over when Dad retires. Episode one crams in far too much, as episode ones always do. Not only do we have to try and sort out who's who in the family but there is also the little matter of incipient union trouble and the threat of a trade union back at the cement works. Honours in round one go, without doubt, to Mr Fraser for his quietly emotional soliloquy over the body of his expiring wife (Renee Asherson).

● **Compilation films** about the early days of the cinema are legion and, quite frankly, we have had our fill of those same old scenes from those same old flicks screened at ludicrously fast speeds which make everybody leap about as if they were possessed by devils. Thames Television's 13-part series *Hollywood*, which begins tonight (ITV, 9.00) is not, I am assured, just another rag-bag of old, silent clips. It is the first serious attempt to define all the elements—directors, stars, themes, studios, set designers—which, singly and jointly, made what the world has ever seen. I rejoice to hear that the film clips—many of which have never been seen on television before—will be projected at their normal, original speed. Hooray, indeed, for Hollywood.

● **What a shame**—but that is the price we have to pay for good, healthy competition—that clashing with *Hollywood* is the first of a new season of movies on BBC2 (9.00) which have been seen in our cinemas very recently indeed: a rare happening on television. Or rather, I should say films which have not been seen in our cinemas, for this is a selection of unusual, sometimes memorable, movies which, for some unfathomable reason, have had no commercial success. Tonight's film, *Roseland*, is James Ivory's affecting study of three couples, no longer young, who frequent New York's famous old ballroom.

● **Two worthwhile repeats** on radio tonight: Paul Vaughan's investigation into the King Arthur legend, *The Matter of Arthur*, first heard on Kaleidoscope (Radio 4, 7.20) and Barbara Thompson's translation of Severo Sarduy's play *Strands*, which won the Society of Authors' Pye Award for the best production of 1979. With Sarah Badel.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (S) STEREO; (B) BLACK AND WHITE; (R) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 pm News and weather.
1.00 Pebbly Mill at One: Includes an interview with actor Terence Stamp (Reinhardt in *Secret Army*) and an item on food rationing, introduced 40 years ago.
1.45 Trumpton: the story of Miss Lovelace and the Mayor's Hat (r). Closedown at 2.00.
3.25 Decatur Star: Lesson in Welsh.
3.55 Play School: Kathy Squires' story King Grumble's New Face.
4.20 Yogi Bear: cartoon. Buzza! Bears (r).
4.25 Jackson: Joanna David (television's Rebecca) continues reading Natalie Babbitt's *The Eyes of the Amaryllis*.
4.40 Animal Magic: A progress report on Johnny Morris's unusual pet competition (they include red-sided Zonures). In the studio: some basket kittens.
5.05 John Crivens' Newsround: junior newsreel.

BBC 2

10.05 am Trade Union History: A chronicle of the movement, and how it has broadened its aims since its early beginnings (r). Closedown at 10.30.
11.00 Play School: same as BBC 1, 3.55.
11.25 Write Away: Hints on filling in forms for those with writing problems. Barry Took makes it look easy.
11.40 It's a Great Life: Happy Ever After. Pressures on family life, and how to cope with them. Closedown at 12.05 pm.
2.30 pm dilemmas: Professor Bernard Williams offers three different philosophical approaches to the question: Tell a lie or get a friend into trouble?
11.00 Minutes of Reality: The influence of the cinema newsreel in the 1930s. Part 1 of this repeated series.

THAMES

1.30 am Animated Classics: From the Earth to the Moon. Cartoon version of Verne.
10.15 Untamed Frontier: The snow geese of the Canadian Arctic.
10.40 Cartoon Time.
10.45 Little House on the Prairie: Outdoor story. Who sent the message in the bottle?
11.55 The Bobbles: cartoon. Something's in the Air.
12.00 Simon in the Land of Chalk Drawings: Two more stories about the boy whose drawings come to life.
12.10 pm Pippins: Animal tales. This one is about The Birdwatcher.
12.30 The Sullivan: Australian family series, set in the last war.
1.00 News: with Peter Sissons. 1.30 Thames News: with Robin Houston.
1.30 Airport Chaplain: The Eye of Faith. New drama series (from Scottish TV). Who will get the job as chaplain to Glasgow Airport? An Anglican, or a Roman Catholic?
2.00 After Noon Plus: Clowns in crisis—a training school that is about to die. Also, replies to viewers' worries about mortgages.
2.45 Wide Alliance: Thirteen-part thriller series, with John Stride and Julia Foster. About a detective fiction writer and his wife (r).

5.15 Grange Hill: Another series about the fictional comprehensive school. Some new arrivals—and a wave of cyclone chaos.
5.30 The Potters: Mini-comedy with Leonard Rossiter.
5.40 News: with Kenneth Kendall.
5.55 Nationwide.
6.50 Robber: A Ripe Old Age. Veteran broadcaster Fyfe Robertson interviews 78-year-old Barbara Cartland, still a powerful one-woman show factory. First in a new series.
7.20 The Rockford Files: Tales of a private investigator (James Garner). Tonight: a neighbour tries to get him kicked out of the beach community where he lives.
8.10 Decision: New series. John Pimm with the story of Angela Gabriel, almost completely paralysed, who has decided to go ahead with the birth of her baby, despite dire medical warnings.
9.00 News: with Angela Rippon.
9.25 Fiest and Blood: New 10-part serial by John Finch. Family saga, set in Yorkshire, with Bill Fraser as the head of the cement-factory company, Thora Hird as his mother and Nigel Stock as the union man (see Personal Choice).

10.20 The Nuclear Power Debate: Robin Day chairs a discussion between leaders of the British nuclear power industry and their critics. Over it hangs the shadow of the accident at the Three Mile nuclear power station in America.
11.35 News and weather.

Regions

12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.20 Down Your Way.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.10 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Women's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Lines with Mother.
3.15 Play: A Slip of the Disc, by John Graham.
4.10 Bookshelf.
4.45 Story: The Flower.
5.00 News.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 Just a Minute.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 The Matter of Arthur: the legend of King Arthur.
8.30 Moonshine on... Trains.
8.35 From Our Own Correspondent.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Comedy: Cider Cup.
11.00 A Book at Bedtime.
11.15 Theatrical World Tonight.
11.30 Records: Coates, Walton State.
12.00 News.
12.15-12.25 am Weather.

11.20 News and weather.
11.35 Closedown: Georgina Anderson reads T. S. Eliot's *Bustopher Jones: The Cat about Town*.
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Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00-8.00 News.
7.30-8.30 Headlines.
8.45 The Great Railway Bazaar (2).
9.00 News.
9.05 Tuesday Call.
10.00 News.
10.05 British Now.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Serial: The Bridge of San Luis Rey, by Thornton Wilder (1).
11.00 News.
11.05 Play: Shift Work, by Sue Glover.
11.35 Still Small Voices.
11.55 Sounding Off.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.20 Down Your Way.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
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11.15 Theatrical World Tonight.
11.30 Records: Coates, Walton State.
12.00 News.
12.15-12.25 am Weather.

Radio 3

12.00-7.05 am Cricket: Australia v England.
7.05 Weather.
7.10 News.
7.15 Records: Mozart, Messenger.
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Spaz, Jacques-Dalcroze, Honegger, Roff.
9.00 News.
9.05 Bartok (Vin Conc 1, Pro Conc 2).
10.00 History of the trio-sonata (1).
10.10 Piano (Kitchin). David Carhart (Son 2—1st perf). Zilverman, Busoni.
11.55 BBC Welsh 50/Segal: Beethoven (incl Vin Conc—Tallies).
12.00 pm News.
1.05 Six Continents: world news.
1.20 BBCSO: Beethoven (Sym 4).
1.30 Cello and piano: Skalkottas, Dodegani.
2.35 In the Shadows of the Great: Robbins London on eclipsed composers—(1) Clementi.
3.20 Records: Janacek, Dvorak, Martinu (Sym 2).
4.25 Jazz Today.
4.55 News.
5.00 Music for early evenings.
5.05 Record: Beethoven (Serenade).
7.30 Play: Strands, by Severo Sarduy.
7.40 Record: Beethoven (Serenade).
8.35 Bavarian RSO/Hager: Mozart (Inc K491—Curtis).
9.25 Talk (Edward Norman): Black Christianity in South Africa.
9.45 SRSO: Mozart (Sym 36).
10.30 Story: Bricks and Mortals, by Jack Trevor Story.
10.45 Songs: Messiaen.
11.25 Jazz in Britain.
11.55 News.
12.00-7.05 am Cricket: Australia v England.

Radio 2

5.00 am News and weather.
5.04 Steve Jones: 7.32 Terry Wogan: 10.43 Jimmy Young: 12.15 pm Waggoners' Walk. 12.30 Pate Murray: 2.15 Ray Moore: 4.15 Much More Music: 5.00 News, 5.45 Waggoners' Walk. 5.29 John Dunn: 6.45 Sports Desk. 7.02 Brian Fahey: 7.30 Folk 80: 8.02 Tuesday Night is Gala Night. 9.02 Max Jaffa: 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.02 Variety Club. 11.02 Brian Marbury. 2.05-5.00 am You and the Night and the Music.
5.00 am Radio 2. 6.00 Dave Lee Travis. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.51 Paul Burnett. 2.00 pm Andy Peebles. 4.31 Kid Jensen. 7.00 Personal Call. 8.00 Mike Read. 9.50 Newsround. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00-5.00 am Radio 2.

Radio 1

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World Service

BBC World Service can be received in the following areas: 1.00 am News. 1.05 am News. 1.10 am News. 1.15 am News. 1.20 am News. 1.25 am News. 1.30 am News. 1.35 am News. 1.40 am News. 1.45 am News. 1.50 am News. 1.55 am News. 2.00 am News. 2.05 am News. 2.10 am News. 2.15 am News. 2.20 am News. 2.25 am News. 2.30 am News. 2.35 am News. 2.40 am News. 2.45 am News. 2.50 am News. 2.55 am News. 3.00 am News. 3.05 am News. 3.10 am News. 3.15 am News. 3.20 am News. 3.25 am News. 3.30 am News. 3.35 am News. 3.40 am News. 3.45 am News. 3.50 am News. 3.55 am News. 4.00 am News. 4.05 am News. 4.10 am News. 4.15 am News. 4.20 am News. 4.25 am News. 4.30 am News. 4.35 am News. 4.40 am News. 4.45 am News. 4.50 am News. 4.55 am News. 5.00 am News. 5.05 am News. 5.10 am News. 5.15 am News. 5.20 am News. 5.25 am News. 5.30 am News. 5.35 am News. 5.40 am News. 5.45 am News. 5.50 am News. 5.55 am News. 6.00 am News. 6.05 am News. 6.10 am News. 6.15 am News. 6.20 am News. 6.25 am News. 6.30 am News. 6.35 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APPOINTMENTS VACANT 5, 18
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FLAT SHARING 5, 18
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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS 5, 18
SALESMEN AND ARTISANS 5, 18
SECRETARIAL 5, 18
NON-SECRETARIAL 5, 18
APPOINTMENTS 5, 18
MOTOR CARS 5, 18
SITUATIONS WANTED 5, 18

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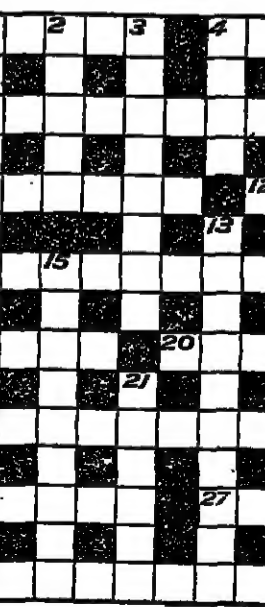
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,116
 This puzzle, used at the Birmingham regional final of the Cuzzy Sark Times National Crossword Championship, was solved within 30 minutes by 38 per cent of the finalists.



- ACROSS**
- 1 It's quite a pull back to the lake (5)
 - 2 Do they look proper too in a formal garden? (9)
 - 3 Facing always the wrong way, men in the race (8)
 - 4 Once the most unpopular bird in Spain (5)
 - 5 It's out of the Spanish wine area (6)
 - 6 Man of the cloth whose work is colourful (8)
 - 7 They reckon to find failure most upsetting (10)
 - 8 Some excitement in the news (4)
 - 9 Put business in the way of a northerner (4)
 - 10 German joiner in one race is overwhelding (10)
 - 11 Vision of a seat (8)
 - 12 They get drunk, like, in drama (6)
 - 13 Encouragement to Thespians in London (10)
 - 14 Farm building no use without heat anyway (4-5)
 - 15 Charming type of female cup-holder, say (9)
 - 16 But in flight they're stationary (5)

- DOWN**
- 1 But they don't lie in some beds they make (9)
 - 2 Split the head of the connecting bolt (5)
 - 3 Self-control the governing principle (8)

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GRAY—On January 6th, 1980, a son (Thomas) to Mr. and Mrs. Gray, 10, The Priory, London. (Mrs. Gray is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gray, 10, The Priory, London.)

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